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# Macworld

April 2010  
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### **Extra Options**

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# CONTENTS

## 23 APPS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

At last, the iPhone and iPad apps that have downloaded an incredible three billion apps from over 100,000 offerings in Apple's App Store. But choosing a few from this plethora can be tricky. Here's a MACWORLD top 23.

**INSTAPAPER PRO 2**  
Readers: Instant Paper Pro 2.0. This is the most powerful iPad app for reading news. It's available for \$9.99. [www.instantpaper.com](#)

**DOODLE MOBILE APP**  
Why you need it: Doodle with you when the iPhone app is not available. It's a great app for drawing. [www.doodleapp.com](#)

**SHAZAM**  
Identify songs by humming or singing. It's a great app for identifying songs. [www.shazam.com](#)

**The Secret History**  
Can Leon Panetta move the C.I.A. forward without confronting the past? [www.secret-history.com](#)

**STRATEGY FIRST GAMES**  
The free-to-play Strategy First Games app is a great app for strategy games. [www.strategyfirstgames.com](#)

**02 WEATHER**  
The free-to-play Weather app is a great app for weather. [www.weather.com](#)

**CONVERT**  
Convert units between different systems. [www.convert.com](#)

**FLIGHT CONTROL**  
A flight simulator app for iPad. [www.flightcontrol.com](#)

**MUSIC**  
The free-to-play Music app is a great app for music. [www.music.com](#)

**MOVIES**  
The free-to-play Movies app is a great app for movies. [www.movies.com](#)

**GAMES**  
The free-to-play Games app is a great app for games. [www.games.com](#)

**Melody makers**  
DAVID HOLZMAN, author of the book, from the NAMM trade show in California.

**ALIAS ON THE MIDI KEYBOARD CONTROLLER**  
The Alias MIDI Keyboard Controller is a great app for MIDI. [www.alias.com](#)

**DIOTEC JAMMAN SOLO**  
The Diotec Jamman Solo is a great app for solo. [www.diotec.com](#)

**ROLAND OCTAPAD SPD-30**  
The Roland Octapad SPD-30 is a great app for SPD-30. [www.roland.com](#)

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The Evolution or Revolution? app is a great app for evolution. [www.evolution.com](#)

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**SECURITY FOR BEGINNERS**  
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FUJIFILM FINEPIX REAL 3D W1 SYSTEM

**HELP AND TIPS**









DAVE BULLARD

## Moves afoot

There have been a couple of changes to the *Australian Macworld* team made recently as we gear up to strengthen our online and digital media presence.

The first requirement for a bigger, brighter and beefier website was to bring the existing Online Editor's job in-house and full-time. The bad news is that David Braue was unable to move across into the new role, but the good news is that we've secured Xavier Verhoeven to replace him.

Xavier is, naturally, a Mac nut who has already done some great writing for Niche Media, the publishers of *AMW*. His Apple umbilical cord was made even stronger when he received an Apple Universities Consortium Honours Scholarship, based on academic merit, to support the use of

Apple technologies in his Psychology Honours project at the University of Melbourne.

So we'd like to welcome Xavier to the team, and to thank David for the sterling work he's done for [www.macworld.com.au](http://www.macworld.com.au) over the past 18 months.

David will continue writing his monthly *Switcher Sensei* column in *AMW*, so we'll still benefit from his knowledge and ready wit.

**AMW delivers the goods.** Alert readers may have noticed in the last issue that we have introduced a new range of *Australian Macworld* merchandise to coincide with our 25th anniversary.

You can buy baseball caps, mugs, stubby holders, bottle-opener

keyrings and nice big golf umbrellas (that product line was my choice, as I needed a new umbrella!).

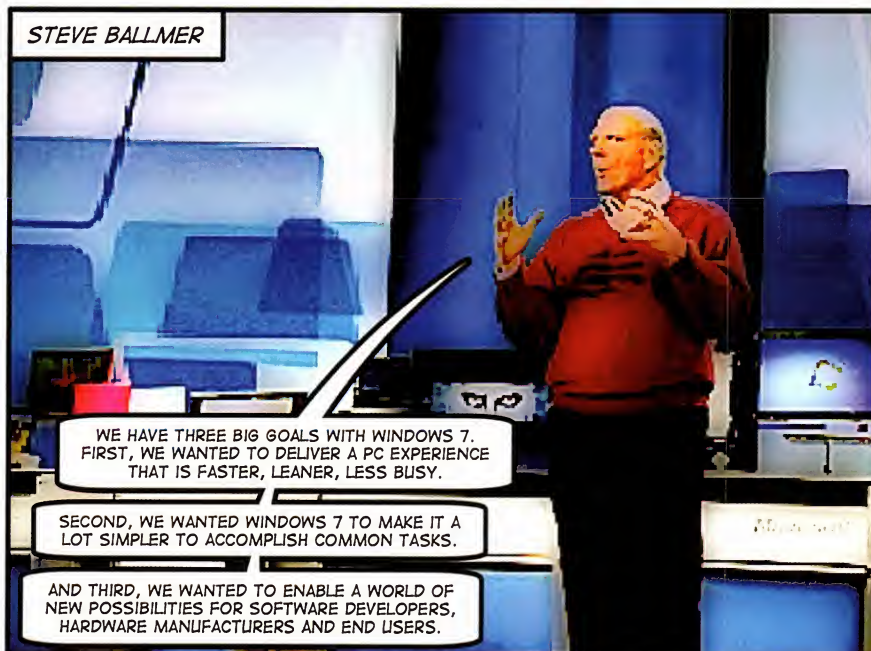
All feature the *Australian Macworld* logo, and are perfect for all you rabid Mac fans.

More importantly to many of you, though, is the news that we have new stock of the much-sought-after *AMW* magazine binders.

The response has been great and stocks are limited, so use the order form on Page 68 to make sure you don't miss out. ☞

*D Bullard*

### Macintoon by Roberto De Vido







Australian Macworld has been bringing you  
the best from Apple and Mac since 1985  
- and we're improving with age.



AUSTRALIAN  
**Macworld**





# VENT YOUR SPLEEN

## CORRESPONDENT LETTER OF THE MONTH

### BACK TO MAC

I came across a photo of myself with my first computer, an Apple IIe. The date on the back of the photo is 1985 and I scanned the photo to send to you. Twenty-five years later I set up this new photo with my existing iMac.

Sadly 'Thai' the cat is no longer with us.

The Apple IIe was ahead of it's time then and served us well.

Over the years our family has had many computers and I returned to Mac in 2007 and love it!

Marian Burridge,  
Maryborough, Queensland

Great to see, Marian. Thanks so much for sending these through ... and glad you re-entered the Mac family after a few years on the Dark Side! – DB



that are looking to deploy their proprietary in-house applications using their intranet".

For more details, have a look at [developer.apple.com/iphone/program/distribute.html](http://developer.apple.com/iphone/program/distribute.html). – DB

### SECURITY FOR DUMMIES

When I read "Mac Security Roundup" on the cover of the January edition, I thought to myself, "At last something about security I will understand." Sadly, this wasn't so. What, for instance, is someone, who knows and understands almost nothing about security, to make of the statement, on Page 29, "So Time Machine and other backups will best benefit from some basic thought about where you keep your sensitive data"? A little further down that page is a recommendation to add an OSX login banner. If I knew how to fix an error, or to change the phone number, in Terminal, I might be willing to have a go at this.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of other content in this article which I find more confusing than helpful and I appeal to you to re-visit this very important topic with we Dummies, who probably constitute about 50 percent of your readership, in mind.

Fred Baily,  
Via email

Thanks for the feedback, Fred. We're mindful of satisfying all of our readers – and we had some great feedback from Neal Wise's article. But on Page 54 this month you'll find what you're looking for: a fantastic beginners' guide to security. – DB

### PRIVATE APPS

As outlined in *One More Thing ...* (02.2010), there is some consternation about the approvals process for getting Apps approved on the iTunes Store. There is, however, another thing I've been curious about ... Is it possible for a company to load proprietary software on to an iPhone (and soon iPad), not have it available to competitors, and not have to jailbreak their iPhone? I haven't found or read anything about this, but I


have wondered about it. Clearly the iPhone is an ideal mobile computing platform – 100 000-plus apps can't be wrong – but is it possible for commercial and in-confidence apps to run, and are they missing this market?

Michael Lewarne,  
Summer Hill, NSW

I ran this past our resident iPhone/iPad development guru, Danny Gorog, and the answer is yes, it's possible through a process called the iPhone Developer Enterprise Program, which is "for companies



**APPROVERS APPROVED**

 In the February-just-before-the-iPad issue of Macworld, the *One More Thing ...* column opined that Apple should get out of the way and let developers publish any iPhone app they want. This is the worst idea since Microsoft thought of writing phone software.

As a consumer, I like the idea that Apple is running a scope over the apps before they are released. They have a better chance of working, they are less likely to be malicious, and my phone is more likely to run without issues.

Apple is providing the delivery mechanism under its own branding, so it has a right, nay, an obligation to ensure the quality of the product offered.

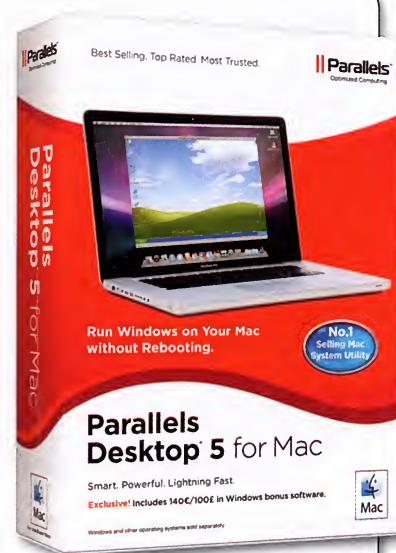
If your correspondent wants to live on the edge, then let him buy a WinPhone – he is just the kind of person who deserves one.

*Russell Day,  
Westgate, NSW*

Each month, Conexus is giving away a prize to the reader who submits what we think is the most interesting letter. This month, the prize is a copy of Parallels Desktop 5 for Mac, worth \$119. Parallels 5 lets you seamlessly run Windows and Mac OS X side-by-side, drag-and-drop your files between operating systems, and run Windows software on your Apple computer without rebooting.

It's the simple and easy way to use Windows – show as much or as little of the Windows interface as you like – supporting those new to Mac and the very experienced.

[www.conexus.com.au](http://www.conexus.com.au)



■ Letters should be emailed to [macworldeditor@niche.com.au](mailto:macworldeditor@niche.com.au) with a subject header of "Letter to the Editor" or by post to: *Australian Macworld* Mailbox, 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205.

■ Letters of fewer than 200 words are given preference. Comments posted to the forums on [www.macworld.com.au](http://www.macworld.com.au) are also eligible for the prize. We reserve the right to edit letters and probably will.

■ To be eligible for the prize, you must include your full name and address, including state or territory.

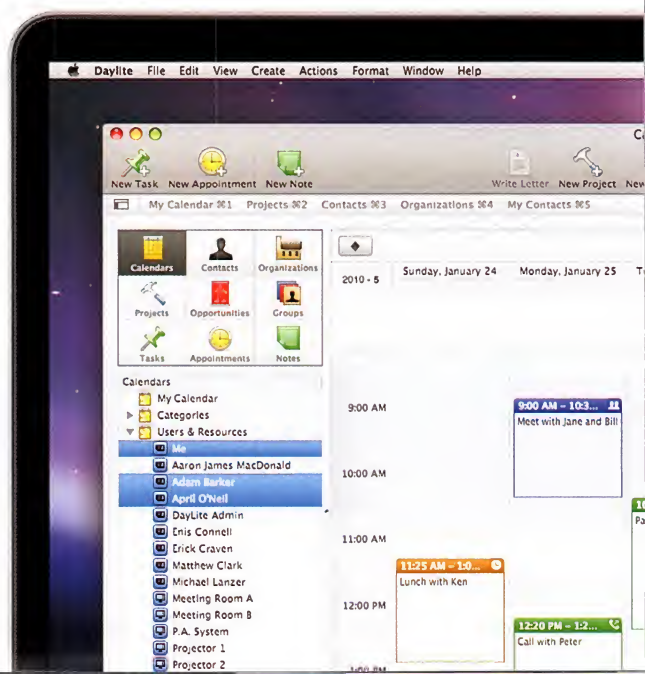
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS.** Conexus letter of the month 1. Instructions on how to enter form part of these conditions of entry. 2. To enter send tips or queries to [macworldeditor@niche.com.au](mailto:macworldeditor@niche.com.au) with a subject header of "Letter to the Editor". Entries will be judged by the editorial staff of *Australian Macworld*. The judges' decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on every person who enters. No correspondence will be entered into. Chance plays no part in determining the winner(s). Each entry will be individually judged based on its degree of interest. 4. Employees, their immediate families and agencies associated with this competition are not permitted to enter. 5. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for late or misdirected entries. 6. The best entry/entries as determined by the judges will win the prize(s). 7. The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any change in the value of the prize occurring between the publish date and the date the prize(s) is claimed. 8. The prize(s) is not transferable and will not be exchanged for cash. 9. The winner(s) will be notified by email. 10. All entries become the property of the Promoter. 11. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information provided in connection with this competition is governed by the Privacy Notice 12. The Promoter is Niche Media Pty Ltd of 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Ph 03 9948 4900, (ABN 13 064 613 529).



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Mac + iPhone

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# NEXT ISSUE....

May issue  
on sale  
28 April



IMAGE  
CAPTURE:  
TIPS &  
TRICKS

## STORAGE WRAP-UP

There has never been more choice when it comes to storage, and with hundreds of gigabytes of photos, music, movies and other data sitting on our Macs the need has never been greater. We look at all the options, from online "cloud" servers to RAID drives, for every situation.

### LAB TEST:

#### Noise-reduction headphones.

These are great for getting rid of unwanted noise on planes, public transport or even in offices. This is our roundup of the latest models.



**PLUS: OUR REGULAR SECTIONS**

AUSTRALIAN  
**Macworld**

April 2010 / Issue No. 146

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**Australian Macworld**  
is a publication of Niche Media Pty Ltd  
ABN 13 064 613 529  
142 Dorcas Street,  
South Melbourne, Victoria 3205  
Tel: 03 9948 4900 / Fax: 03 9948 4999

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**CTP/Print**  
Southern Colour (VIC) Pty Ltd  
03 8796 7000

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## In brief



## SONY LAUNCHES INTERNET TV

Sony has launched a range of Bravia TVs for 2010, including the company's first internet-TV-enabled sets.

Sony's IPTV service – known as BRAVIA Internet Video – will feature 15 internet channels and be accessible through 21 broadband-enabled TVs in the 2010 BRAVIA range. Sony is rolling out 15 new channels (11 of which are available immediately), which can be navigated through the same XrossMediaBar as you find on PlayStation3 games consoles.

Sony's BRAVIA Internet Video line-up includes: Yahoo!7, SBS, Billabong, YouTube, Epicurious and Style.com.

This content is streamed over the internet through a broadband connection direct to the TV. Sony did not say if it had entered into a linked 'unlimited downloads' agreement with any internet service providers. If not, the streaming TV could make serious inroads into your broadband data allowance.

iSuppli sales data from February shows that Sony's Bravia sales in the US market slipped 1 percent in the previous 12 months. Market leader Samsung increased its market share by 22.6 percent.

[www.sony.com.au](http://www.sony.com.au)

## APPLE CONSULTANTS NETWORK

Apple has launched a Consultants Network in Australia and New Zealand – a group of local, independent experts that users can call on for help.

ACN members are not employed by Apple, but each member company is staffed with technical personnel who hold the latest Apple Certifications.

Members include Computers Now, Digistor, gizmo, Key Options Technology, Kytec Group, Renaissance Limited, Winthrop Australia and XciteLogic.

[consultants.apple.com.au](http://consultants.apple.com.au)

## 10 billion songs for iTunes

The iTunes Store reached a historical milestone recently when the 10 billionth song (you read it correctly – that's 10 followed by nine zeroes) was downloaded by a Johnny Cash fan.

The 10 billionth song, Cash's *Guess Things Happen That Way*, was bought by Louie Sulcer of Woodstock, Georgia, US.

As the winner of the iTunes Countdown to 10 Billion Songs competition, Sulcer gets a US\$10,000 (about \$12,000) iTunes Gift Card that can also be used for App Store purchases.

"We're grateful to all of our customers for helping us reach this amazing milestone," Apple Internet Services vice-president Eddy Cue said. "We're proud that iTunes has become the number one music retailer in the world, and selling 10 billion songs is truly staggering."

iTunes features the world's largest music catalogue with over 12 million songs, and this 10-billion goal has been on Apple's radar for some time.

The iTunes Store, like its app-peddling cousin, continues to experience growth at a breakneck pace: the number of song downloads has doubled from five billion in a little more than 18 months. Meanwhile, the latest App Store numbers, from last September, peg app downloads at more than two billion.

Download figures for TV shows and movies lag significantly behind; tellingly the company has not released numbers for either since topping 200 million TV episode downloads in October 2008.

However, recent reports suggest that the Cupertino congregation are in talks with several content providers to slash the cost of standard-definition shows in the US to \$US1 from the current \$US2 price point, with the hopes of bolstering sales to music-like levels.

TV shows currently sell for \$2.99 in Australia.

To celebrate its achievement – besides handing over a very valuable

piece of plastic – Apple has published a list of the 20 most-downloaded songs of all time. Both Black Eyed Peas and Lady Gaga feature prominently, meaning that every person over 25 who happens upon it is likely to wonder what happened to their youth.

The top 20 songs are:

1. *I Gotta Feeling*, Black Eye Peas
2. *Poker Face*, Lady GaGa
3. *Boom Boom Pow*, Black Eyed Peas
4. *I'm Yours*, Jason Mraz
5. *Viva la Vida*, Coldplay
6. *Just Dance*, Lady GaGa
7. *Low*, Flo Rida (featuring T-Pain)
8. *Love Story*, Taylor Swift
9. *Bleeding Love*, Leona Lewis
10. *Tik Tok*, Kesha
11. *Disturbia*, Rihanna
12. *So What*, Pink
13. *I Kissed a Girl*, Katy Perry (below)
14. *Single Ladies*, Beyonce
15. *Hot N Cold*, Katy Perry
16. *Stronger*, Kanye West
17. *Live Your Life*, T.I.
18. *Hey There Delilah*, Plain White T's
19. *Right Round*, Flo Rida
20. *Party in the U.S.A.*, Miley Cyrus

[www.apple.com/au/itunes](http://www.apple.com/au/itunes)



## World's fastest drive

Crucial is well known among Mac aficionados for its memory upgrades. But lately, following the company's purchase by Micron, Crucial has been branching out, developing new technology beyond RAM. The fruits of that development are now paying off as Crucial launches its new RealSSD C300 solid-state drive (SSD).





Crucial senior product manager Jim Jardine doesn't mince his words when it comes to the new drive, saying: "It's the fastest hard drive in the world."

With a 6GBps SATA interface and a read speed of 355MBps, the C300 should offer a substantial boost over the typical MacBook Pro hard drive.

"It's like having a computer upgrade" says Jardine. "It's noticeably faster".

With up to 256GB of capacity, it's clear that SSDs are no longer the smaller cousins of hard drives. There is also a 128GB version if you're looking for a slightly cheaper option; this has a slightly slower read speed (although the write speed remains the same).

Both the 128GB and 256GB hard drives come in a 2.5in and 1.8in form factor. The 2.5in unit will fit into MacBook and MacBook Pro models (and an Xserve with SSD). However, Jardine couldn't confirm if the 1.8in model will work with a MacBook Air (which uses a 1.8in slot).

The lifespan of SSDs is something of a concern for many potential owners (early SSD models had short lifespans of up to 10,000 reads). Crucial is quoting a million-hour mean time between failure rate, which effectively means it should last longer than the laptop itself.

"The message we're trying to get across is that you can use this for an ungodly number of hours"

Jardine says, "and it should outlast a physical drive with a spindle. And even if it does break you'll still be able to read the data from it, unlike physical media."

Crucial is also selling a US\$18.99 (about \$22) Data Transfer Kit alongside the C300. This consists of a Cable and Apricorn cloning software. The idea is that you connect the C300 to your Mac's USB drive and launch the Apricorn software. This clones your current hard drive to the new C300 SSD drive so your Mac will be up and running as soon as you start up.

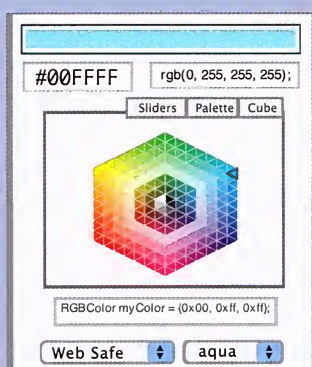
Price is a sticking point. At \$800 (about \$890) plus shipping for the 256GB C300 SSD, the unit isn't exactly a cheap upgrade. But if it offers the kind of performance upgrade Crucial is boasting, it could be worth it for power users. Crucial also offers a smaller 128GB model for \$500 (about \$560) plus shipping.

[www.crucial.com/store/ssd.aspx](http://www.crucial.com/store/ssd.aspx)

## EazyDraw - "new" Version 3.4

### WebColorPicker

A RGB / hexadecimal plugin for your Mac OS X color panel.



[www.WebColorPicker.com](http://www.WebColorPicker.com)

\$8 - Sold separately. Works great with EazyDraw, use with other applications on OS X.



Illustrations  
Web Graphics  
Technical Drawings  
Charts & Diagrams  
Logo Design  
Text Layout

# eazydraw

! Now with SVG !

have fun drawing on OS X

[www.eazydraw.com](http://www.eazydraw.com) (that is with a "z") or 1.608.444.5245





iPhone  
DANNY GOROG

## Motor mouth

Using an iPhone in your car isn't just a luxury anymore. As the primary means of communication for many, the iPhone has taken centre-stage in the car. Because the iPhone is so capable there are many things you can do with it, but in the car there are three things that stand out: Talk, listen, and navigate.

iPhone car connectivity is a burgeoning market and you're sure to find many different products that suit your needs. Below is a list of my favourites that I use on a daily basis. **Docks.** With the recent changes to legislation in Victoria, holding your phone in the car is illegal so the first thing you'll need in your car is a good dock. I've sampled many but my favourite is the Kensington car mount with sound amplified cradle.

The Kensington cradle holds your iPhone (supports iPhone 3G, 3GS and original iPhone) securely even

when you're driving on the bumpiest road. There's also the advantage of the sound amplification which almost takes the place of a hands-free by routing the iPhone's sound with clever use of an audio chamber in the back of the cradle.

The cradle can also be pivoted from landscape to portrait mode with a quick flick. If you'd prefer the cradle closer to you Kensington also supplies a vent mount, but in my testing this was nowhere near as secure as the windshield mount. Also, while the sound amplification is a handy feature, in practise the sound is still too soft to be an effective replacement for handsfree.

**In-car integration.** Once you've sorted out where to put your iPhone while you're driving you can move on to the next problem; how to talk hands-free.

There are many solutions for in-car handsfree, from the cheaper Bluetooth

that filters out background noise and provides excellent sound quality.


The H790 also talks to you to tell you how to pair your device to a phone, and when mute is active it notifies you when the phone is ringing. At only 9.5g you'll hardly notice when you're wearing it, and with a talk time of up to five hours one charge should get you through most of the week.

The best solution, if your budget and car allows it, is to get a fully integrated Bluetooth car kit installed. If you're looking for the best in class you can't go past the MKi9200 from Parrot (pictured).

The MKi9200 is a Bluetooth hands-free system that integrates with your car stereo to provide full hands-free calling functionality plus the ability to play music via a range of different inputs including an iPod dock connector, USB plug, SD card and streaming via A2DP Bluetooth.

A convenient 2.4in high-resolution TFT colour screen lets you view the unit, select from the different audio inputs and browse your contacts (which are synced by Bluetooth). A wireless remote control, which can be positioned on the steering wheel or dashboard, lets you control the MKi9200.

Because it's a sophisticated product, the MKi9200 is also firmware upgradable which means it's future-proof in a way. For example, when Apple upgrades the iPhone software expect Parrot to release an update to provide compatibility if required.

Sound quality was excellent, but the screen was difficult to see in the sunlight. Another negative, in comparison to a portable Bluetooth unit, is that you'll need to get it fitted professionally, something that will add to the nearly \$500 cost. 

The best solution, if your budget and car allows it, is to get a fully integrated Bluetooth car kit installed."



units that fit snugly in your ear to more full-featured integrated solutions.

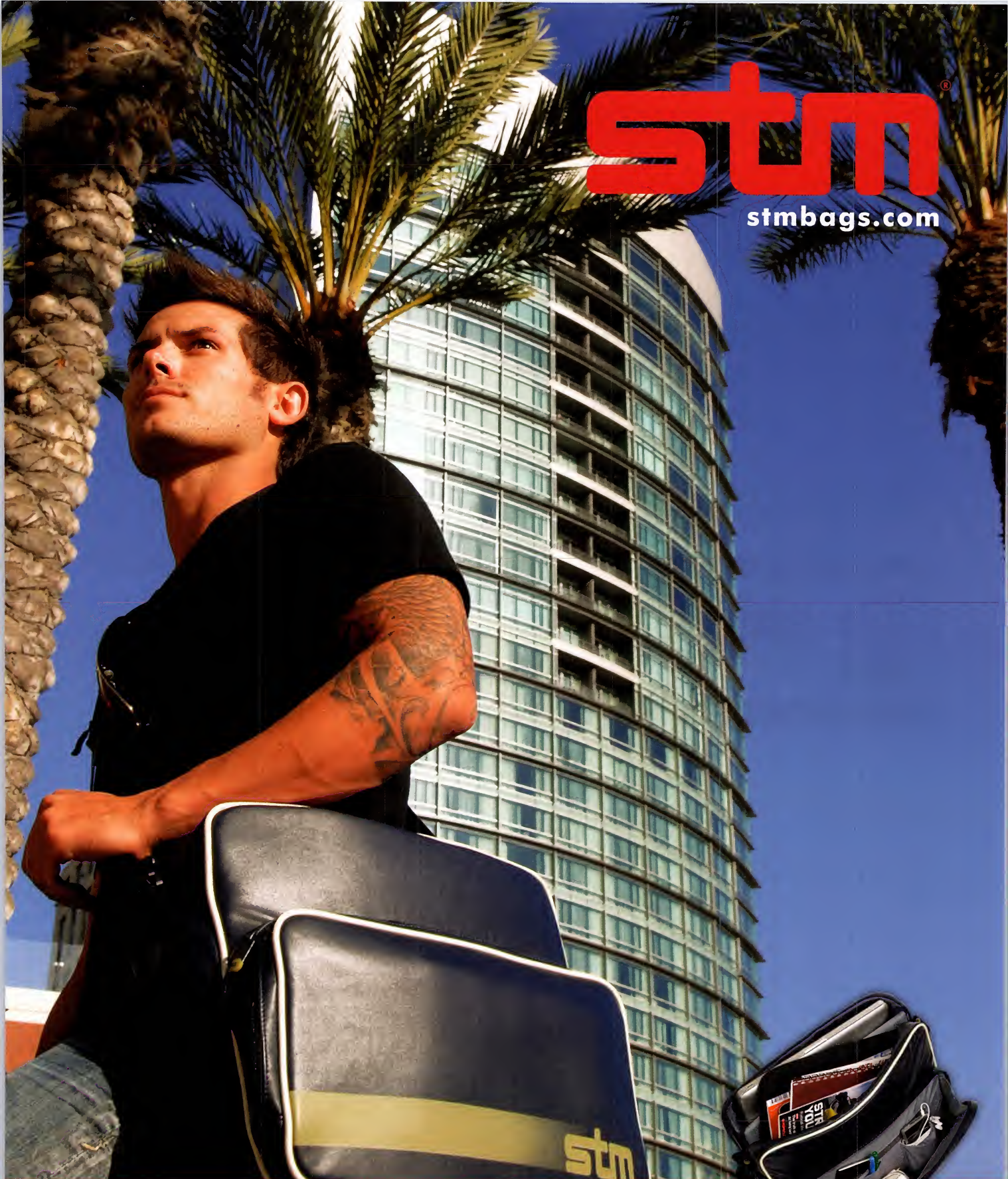
Portable Bluetooth units are cheaper and more flexible than integrated solutions, but you'll still need to remember to charge them occasionally, and they can be fiddly to fit while you're driving. I've had experience with many of these units including some of the newer Motorola models.

In particular, the Motorola H790 Bluetooth headset is a great option



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# MAC GEMS

The best in low-cost Mac software.

## SNEAKPEEK PRO

www.code-line.com  
PRODUCTIVITY

SneakPeek Pro provides Quick Look image previews for graphics and publishing files. With it installed, Quick Look supports Illustrator, InDesign, Adobe Swatch Exchange and FreeHand MX documents, and InDesign XML Interchange and EPS files. The high-resolution preview also shows details such as filename, modification dates and times, and all fonts used.

**Price: US\$19.95 (about \$23)**



## COOKIETHIEF

code.google.com/p/cookie thief  
WEB

If you switch between Safari and Camino, CookieThief lets you copy cookies – the tiny chunks of data that let websites remember who you are, when you last visited, and how you prefer to use each site – between the two browsers. With CookieThief, sites that remember your identity and settings – such as amazon.com – in one browser will remember you in the other.

**Price: Free**



## iMEDIA BROWSER

www.karelia.com  
PRODUCTIVITY

Karelia's iMedia Browser provides iLife-style media access to all applications, while also extending access to media stored in Aperture, Lightroom and GarageBand, as well as in Finder folders. Click the toolbar icons for the media type you want, browse (and preview) your media, and then drag the desired item to an email message, iChat window, folder or volume.

**Price: Free**

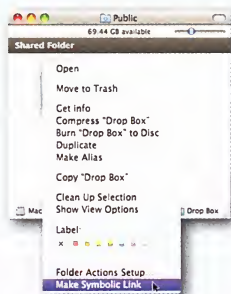


## SYMBOLICLINKER

seiryu.home.comcast.net  
UTILITIES

While Mac OS X, like OS 9 before it, supports traditional Mac aliases, some of the Unix underpinnings of OS X don't: many Unix programs and services see a Mac alias as a useless file. To get around this you need to use Unix-style symbolic links. SymbolicLinker adds a 'Make Symbolic Link' command to the Finder's contextual menus. The link looks just like a Mac alias.

**Price: Free**

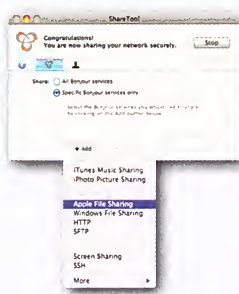


## SHARETOOL

www.yazsoft.com  
NETWORKING

Mac OS X's Back to My Mac feature allows you to access your home Mac from elsewhere on the internet – provided you're a MobileMe subscriber. If you're not, ShareTool is a good alternative. It relies on – and extends – Bonjour in order to let you securely share, over the internet, any services that Mac can reach on its local network. These include iTunes and screen sharing.

**Price: US\$24.34 (about \$28)**



## QUICKBOOT

buttered-cat.com  
UTILITIES

If you frequently use Boot camp to boot into windows, or if you boot from different volumes to test software in various versions of Mac OS X, QuickBoot provides a convenient way to switch startup volumes. Just choose a volume from QuickBoot's systemwide menu to reboot from that volume. The next time you restart normally, your default startup volume will be used.

**Price: Free**





## SOCIALITE

www.realmacsoftware.com  
SOCIAL NETWORKING

Socialite (formerly EventBox) lets you follow Twitter, Facebook, Google Reader, Instapaper, Digg, Flickr, and RSS feeds in a single window. It also lets you participate in those social networks – replying and re-tweeting on Twitter, posting photos to Flickr, sharing headlines in Google Reader, and more. It supports multiple accounts for each service.

**Price: \$24.52**



## NOTIFY 2 PRO

vibealicious.com  
EMAIL

The original Notify was just an email notification app. But Notify 2 Pro is a capable yet simple email client that sits in your menu bar. The user interface features tabs for each email account, which make it easier to tell which account you're reading or sending from. You can send and preview entire messages from the drop-down user interface.

**Price: US\$10 (about \$12)**



# DIGITAL SOUND!



## CINEMA SOUND QUALITY

Experience true cinema sound quality, from the comfort of your own room. The new RS160, RS170 and RS180 cordless headphones from Sennheiser offer amazing audio quality thanks to the use of Klear's uncompressed digital wireless audio transmission. Klear's transmission technology operates without any signal compression; therefore not being subject to any audio loss. All three models offer you the freedom to move around the room without getting caught up in cables; in addition each system can transmit up to 4 separate headphones.

For more information contact;  
Australia: Free Call: 1800 648 628  
New Zealand: Free Call: 0800 100 755  
[www.sennheiser.com.au/mw](http://www.sennheiser.com.au/mw)  
Follow us: [twitter.com/SennheiserAU\\_NZ](https://twitter.com/SennheiserAU_NZ)





# APP GUIDE

iPhone and iPod touch software that's caught our eye.

## PRODUCTIVITY

### PRODUCTIVITY

For producing blog entries on the go, it's hard to top BlogPress. The mobile blogging tool easily handles landscape mode, and its intuitive interface makes adding tags and tapping out your pearls of wisdom a breeze. It posts pictures effortlessly, without being picky about which photo service you happen to use, and also lets you access more than one account. **CLT Studio. Price: \$3.99**



## ORGANISATION

### ORGANISATION

This impressive app provides the integration with mobile devices that Google Calendar users have been waiting for. You can display your calendar in different views, and settings let you alter everything from the colours in the interface to how often you sync with your Google Calendar. Added functionality includes being able to invite people to events and pull contacts from your address book. **Dominique Andr Gunia. Price: \$8.99**



## LOGMEIN IGNITION

### NETWORKING

When it comes to remotely operating Macs and Windows machines with a mobile device, LogMeIn Ignition stands out for its simple setup and Multi-Touch controls. Some of the controls may take some getting used to – for instance, the virtual mouse stays in the centre of the screen while you move the desktop underneath – but this is one app that deserves a place on your iPhone or iPod touch. **LogMeIn. Price: \$36.99**



## ETHICAL CONSUMER

### REFERENCE

This new Ethical Consumer Group app lets you quickly find out which common products are environmentally and socially sound so you can shop with a clear conscience. Developed by Melbourne-based Outware Mobile – which has AMW contributor Danny Gorog as a director – it's fully searchable or you can browse by category. Simple and effective. **Outware Mobile. Price: \$4.99**



## DSLR CAMERA REMOTE PROFESSIONAL EDITION

### PHOTOGRAPHY

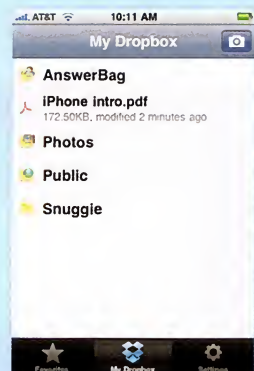
If you have a digital SLR from Canon or Nikon, this app provides remote capabilities for many models, including a live view that transmits to your iPhone or iPod touch a through-the-lens look at what you're shooting. This full version lets you change settings as well as view and take pictures. It gives photographers an inexpensive tool for serious studio and location shooting. **onOne Software. Price: \$23.99**



## PRODUCTIVITY

### PRODUCTIVITY

Dropbox is a cool service for storing and syncing files online so that they're accessible from multiple computers. You can view all kinds of documents so you can get to the latest versions of your most important files without any fuss. There's no way to edit files or create new text files, but this initial version of the app packs in plenty of functionality for Dropbox users. **Dropbox. Price: Free**



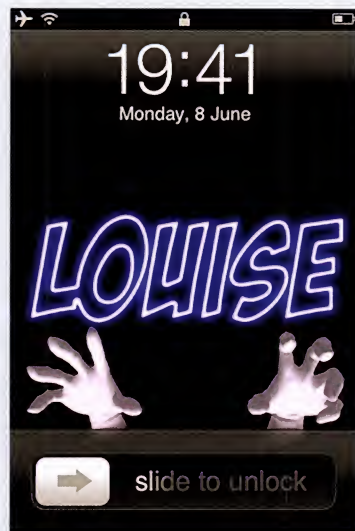


*All apps available from Apple's App Store through iTunes or directly from your iPhone or iPod touch.*

## NEON WALLPAPER BACKGROUNDS CREATOR

### UTILITIES

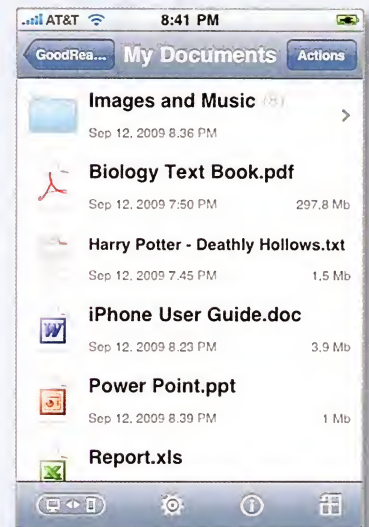
This app lets you quickly and easily create wallpapers for your iPhone and iPod touch, placing neon text over them. You can choose from tons of different fonts, neon styles, background pictures, and text colours to create your own custom wallpaper. Just be aware that Neon Wallpaper temporarily uploads your image and device ID to the developer's servers. **CreateNetworks.**  
**Price: \$1.19**



## GOODREADER

### PRODUCTIVITY

Goodreader lets you view PDF, Word, html, text, and image files, listen to audio files and watch videos on your iPhone and iPod touch. The files can be imported via Wi-Fi, through a web browser or from personal storage sites such as MobileMe and Google Docs. Even better, it easily converts PDFs into text, reformatting it into an easy-to-read, searchable document. **Good.iWare,**  
**Price: \$1.19**



## Needs NoteBook

Stickers. Scraps of paper. Web clippings. Meeting notes. Reminders. Take control of it all with Circus Ponies NoteBook. Get organized using a familiar notebook interface of pages, tabs, and sections. "Clip" web research,

e-mails and other content to your Notebooks for handy reference. Never miss a detail with voice-annotated notes you play back on your iPod. Diagram and sketch when words won't convey your thoughts. Track and sync your tasks



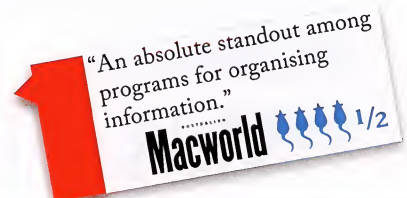
## Has NoteBook

to iCal and your phone. Find anything instantly with NoteBook's patented Multidex™. Share your Notebooks as PDFs or websites. And much more. NoteBook has everything you need to get organized.

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**SOFTWARE**  
**KEITH WHITE**

## Open to Aperture

Most people considering the switch up to or across to Aperture 3 have probably implemented their decision by now. What follows then is for people who still haven't made up their mind or for people like me who perhaps hadn't seriously considered Aperture before.

I've used Photoshop since version 3 and make extensive use of the clone tool and the healing brush for vintage photo restoration. The fully adjustable repair and clone brushes on Aperture 3's Retouch panel come closer to their Photoshop counterparts so I'll be exploring them further. I also use layers in Photoshop to create montages and to add text. Aperture can't do that. Yet.

So where does Aperture 3 sit in the Apple software pantheon?

Having beefed up its video and music offerings from consumer-level iLife versions to the fully professional Final Cut and Logic Studios, Apple has finally produced a serious image handling tool for users wanting more than iPhoto can handle.

Aperture 3 is not a Photoshop killer yet, but still worthy of consideration for serious photographers. Its closest market rival is actually Adobe Lightroom, which costs over twice the \$249 that Aperture will set you back.

So what do you get for your money? First, with more than 200 enhancements to the workspace, importing and organising functions, adjustment tools and output options, this is a major upgrade. The face recognition and GPS location functions first introduced in iPhoto 9 have been incorporated

into Aperture 3 and given more power. Whole libraries, single images and two-up comparisons now make full use of all available screen real-estate.


I was able to import my modest 1500-image library from iPhoto without any trouble, although some difficulties in importing large libraries have been reported. Metadata, once the province of control freaks, has now been mainstreamed with functions that enable you to work with information on every aspect of every image in your library from RAW data to star ratings.

When it comes to image manipulation, Aperture's adjustment presets and precision brushes can produce professional effects with amazing rapidity. Presets include quick fixes to common image problems as well as options for tweaking colour and white balance adjustments. You can fine-tune presets from the extensive adjustment panel and save them as your own.

There is a range of almost any adjustment a photographer would want all conveniently available on one customisable slider panel. This, to me, is the main advantage over other image editing programs where you are often working with one tool at a time.

When it comes to output Aperture 3 offers rich slideshows, a wide variety of Apple-designed professional book templates and access to Flickr, Facebook or MobileMe.

Where I previously used iPhoto to do quick corrections to a large number of images, Aperture will now be given these tasks and more.

If you're still hesitating, check the system requirements, download the 30-day demo and watch the videos. If you don't need layers or titling then Aperture 3 can look after your imaging needs very nicely. 

Where I previously used iPhoto to do quick corrections to a large number of images, Aperture will now be given these tasks and more."





## What's on your to-do list?

- ☒ Collect graphics for Macworld print ad
- ☒ Write text
- ☐ Design nice layout

# Things

Mac + iPhone

"Things' combination of ease of use, great interface, and flexibility make it as close to the ideal Mac to-do app as we've seen."  
—Dan Frakes, Macworld



Apple Design Award  
Mac OS X Leopard Developer Showcase  
2009 Winner

Get your free trial of Things for Mac:  
[www.culturedcode.com/amw](http://www.culturedcode.com/amw)

Task management has never been this easy. Things lets you organize your to-dos in an elegant and intuitive way.





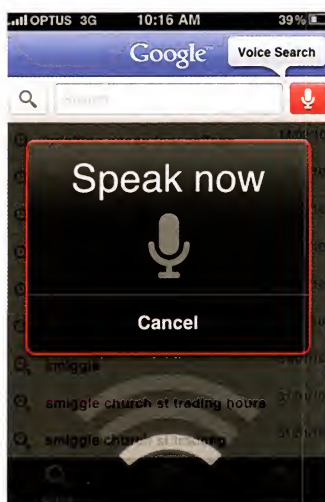
# 23 APPS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

At last count iPhone and iPod touch users had downloaded an incredible three billion apps from well over 100,000 offerings in Apple's App Store. But choosing a few from this plethora can be tricky. Here's AMW's top 23.

## INSTAPAPER PRO 2 READER

Marco Arment introduced Instapaper to wide acclaim in 2008, but he topped himself with Instapaper Pro 2. At its heart is the ability to download articles to your mobile device and read them with or without a Wi-Fi connection or mobile phone signal. Arment kept features such as a cool tilt-scroll capability and built on them by including intriguing social networking features.

**Marco Arment. Price: \$5.99**



## GOOGLE MOBILE APP REFERENCE

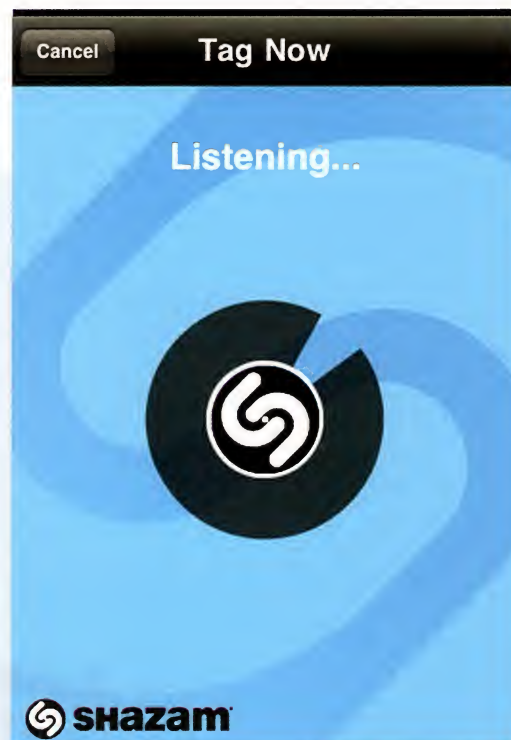
Why do you need a Google web app when the iPhone already has Safari? Well, for its voice capability, for a start. Click on the microphone icon at the top right, say what you want to search the web for, and the result will come up in a flash. It's super-accurate, and is ushering in a new era of voice commands. Shame it won't work in landscape mode, though.

**Google Mobile. Price: Free**

## SHAZAM MUSIC

Listening to a song but don't know what it is or who it's by? Launch Shazam, press 'Tag Now' and the app will record a segment of the tune, send it to its database to check, and give you a result in under a minute. It links you to iTunes if you want to buy the song, or you can share your discoveries. The free version gives you five tags a month, while the \$5.99 one is unlimited.

**Shazam Entertainment. Price: Free**





**STRATEGY****STRATEGY GAMES**

Though the Risk-like *Strategy* game sports an interface based mostly on multicoloured dots, it looks attractive. But the real brilliance of the game is found on its Options screen, where you'll see four difficulty settings, three map sizes, a pass-and-play multiplayer mode for up to five people, and other features. Though simple on the surface, *Strategy* offers tremendous depth.

**Affogato. Price: \$2.49**

**CONVERT****CONVERSION**

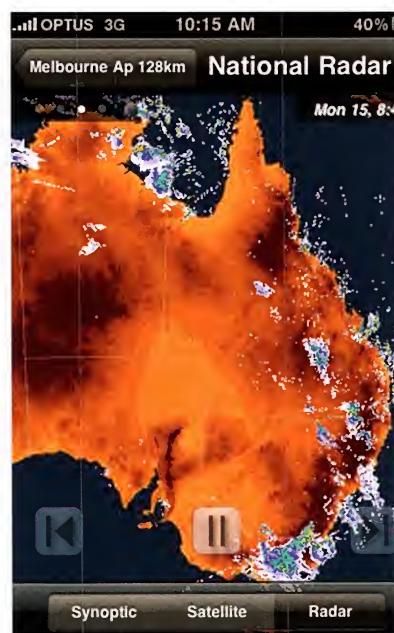
This unit conversion application is a piece of iPhone beauty and useful to boot. Convert offers you 15 different types of unit conversion, from basics like area, angle, weight, volume, length and temperature to the more technical such as energy, currency, force, pressure, power and typography. It also includes a basic calculator. The interface is well designed and a pleasure to use.

**tap tap tap. Price: \$1.19**

**OZ WEATHER****WEATHER**

The free Oz Weather Lite is a good app – but paying \$2.49 gets you a great version. At its simplest, you get a detailed report on the current weather at your nearest station, a seven-day forecast and an animated BoM radar display. On the paid version you also get features such as national radar, satellite views and animated synoptic charts. Post-sales support is excellent as well.

**ozPDA. Price: \$2.49**

**FLIGHT CONTROL****CASUAL GAMES**

Flight Control from Melbourne's Firemint wouldn't exist without the iPhone. The delight of dragging paths for a constant influx of landing planes is inextricably tied to the fact that you use your finger to do it. The game looks great and each element feels at home on the iPhone. The multiplayer mode works over Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, and the gameplay is as elegant as it is addictive.

**Firemint. Price: \$1.19**







## REAL FOOTBALL 2010

### SPORTS GAMES

Some fantastic sports games vie for your attention, but *Real Football 2010* is top of our table, thanks to terrific graphics, fun gameplay and solid multiplayer features. A surplus of teams, accurate rosters and an abundance of new modes – including ones that let you play an entire season or chart a specific player's development – add staggering depth. The controls have been improved as well, including the ability to select your player simply by touching him on the screen.

**Gameloft. Price: \$5.99**

## FACEBOOK 3

### SOCIAL NETWORKING

The third major update of the Facebook iPhone app offered a massive interface overhaul – and a very successful one. Among other features, a notifications alert appears at the bottom of the screen, and you can now see and update pages, and upload photos and videos. Now Facebook isn't simply usable on the iPhone – in some ways, it actually feels better than the full version of the site.

**Facebook. Price: Free**

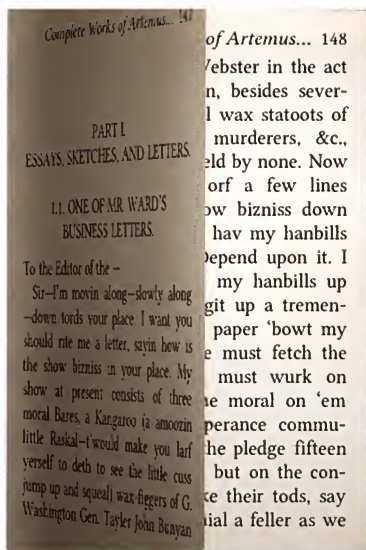


## BRUSHES

### PAINTING

Few would argue the notion that the iPhone packs a lot of power into its little frame. But to use *Brushes* is to experience that power firsthand. It puts a colour picker, brushes and layers at your disposal so you can create works of art. It's advanced enough to let you create a magazine cover – as artist Jorge Colombo did for the *New Yorker* – yet easy enough to navigate so that anyone can let their fingers do the painting.

**Steve Sprang. Price: \$5.99**



## EUCALYPTUS

### BOOKS

This is, by far, the most elegant e-reader out there for the iPhone and iPod touch. In time, perhaps, you'll be able to import books from other reader formats or e-book retailers. For now, Eucalyptus will gorgeously display any of the tens of thousands of public-domain works from Project Gutenberg. The app is proof of how pleasurable reading a book on a small, handheld device can be.

**Things Made Out of Other Things. Price: \$12.99**



## FITNESSBUILDER

### FITNESS

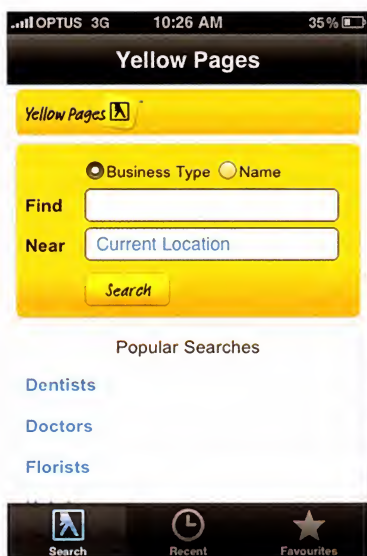
PumpOne's FitnessBuilder is one of the more expensive exercise options in the App Store, but it does help you develop a comprehensive exercise regimen. The app, which bills itself as your personal trainer, is all about volume, interactivity and variety. It offers some 400 built-in workouts for different levels and goals and a comprehensive library of about 4000 original fitness videos and diagrams. It's amazingly deep, rich and detailed. **PumpOne. Price: \$12.99**



## YELLOW PAGES AUSTRALIA

### LIFESTYLE

Yellow Pages is a perfect match for the iPhone. The ability to do a quick search for a business type, find one you like, then tap on its phone number to call is worth its weight in gold. This app even shows you a map, the distance from your current location to the business and, if you want, turn-by-turn directions though Whereis.com.au. If you know the name of the business or person already, White Pages is just as handy. **Sensis. Price: Free**



## OCARINA

### MUSIC

One of today's most interesting and innovative music apps is Smule's Ocarina, which turns your iPhone into a musical instrument. To play it you gently blow into the iPhone's microphone port while covering and uncovering four virtual 'holes' to change its pitch. Ocarina is a whole lot of fun to play once you get the hang of the fingerings – all of which you can find at [ocarina.smule.com](http://ocarina.smule.com) **Smule. Price: \$1.19**



## CARPENTER

### UTILITIES

The free iHandy Level is an excellent app that puts a spirit level on your iPhone or iPod touch. It's handy, and it's a great party trick to show non-Apple users. Carpenter, though, adds a plumb bob, a surface level, a protractor and a 'steel' rule. The designs are lovely and the tools work just as they're supposed to – though it must be said that the protractor and rule have to contend with the iPhone's bezel being in the way. This app won't replace your real tools, but it comes in handy more often than you might think. **iHandy Soft. Price: \$2.49**







## GOOGLE EARTH MAPS

Being able to zoom in on almost any corner of the earth – to the point where you can see your car in your driveway or even check out a view of your house from the street – is amazing. Being able to do it on your iPhone is even more so. The Google Earth app also lets you search for places or businesses and has a great auto-tilt feature where you tilt your iPhone to switch from a top-down view to an angled view. You can even search for cities, places and businesses, then ‘fly’ there!

**Google Mobile. Price: Free**

## SCRABBLE

### WORD GAMES

If you're any kind of word nut then *Scrabble* will become the most-used app on your iPhone or iPod touch. The classic word-forming board game has translated perfectly to the small screen, with simple drag-and-drop gameplay and just-as-simple controls. Multiplayer mode, where you play against a user on another device works particularly well. It would be nice to be able to change dictionaries, though, as the game accepts multiple spellings.

**Electronic Arts. Price: \$5.99**



## TWEETIE 2.1

### SOCIAL NETWORKING

Twitter and the iPhone go together like toast and Vegemite. And nobody provides that great taste in a more attractive package than Tweetie 2, the winner of a 2009 Apple Design Award. Its predecessor was one of the most popular clients in the App Store, but Tweetie 2 incorporates a slick, elegant interface, support for multiple Twitter accounts and the ability to quickly search your timeline. The offline mode is handy, too.

**atebits. Price: \$3.99**



## POCKET UNIVERSE

### ASTRONOMY

Pocket Universe is a marvel. The app puts the entirety of the night-time sky in your pocket, a remarkable achievement for such a tiny device. Using the GPS feature on the iPhone 3GS or Location Services on earlier iPhones and the iPod touch, Pocket Universe can figure out almost exactly where in the sky you're looking and identify all the celestial bodies nearby. It works beautifully.

**Craic Design. Price: \$3.99**





**BESTCAMERA****PHOTOGRAPHY**

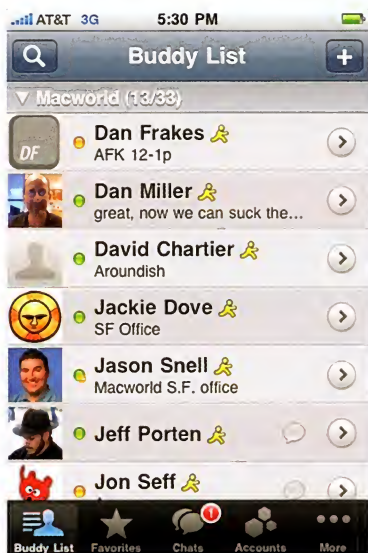
Part image editor, part social media tool, Best Camera reminds you that taking photos should be fun. The app includes 14 image effects – including vignetting, warming, and high-contrast black-and-white – which you can layer to create seriously gorgeous images. You can email the results to yourself, save them to the Camera Roll, or upload them to Facebook, Twitter, or the Best Camera website.

**Ubermind. Price: \$3.99**

**BEEJIVE IM****MESSAGING**

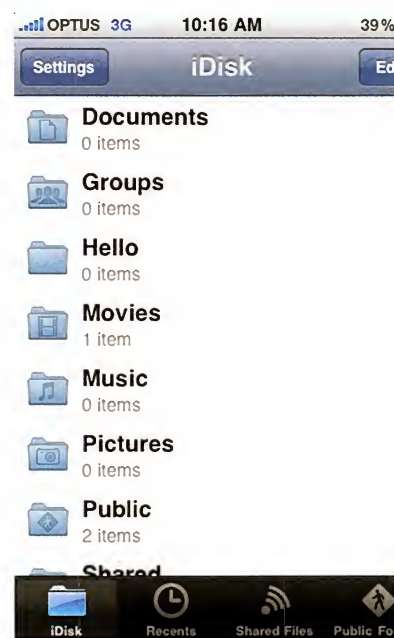
Apple may not have included native instant-messaging support for the iPhone, but that opened the door for BeeJiveIM. The best-in-class IM app includes the ability to quickly switch between simultaneous conversations, support for multiple services integration with the iPhone's address book and push notifications. You can even use BeeJiveIM to send and receive images and other files.

**BeeJive. Price: \$8.99**

**MOBILEME IDISK****PRODUCTIVITY**

This is one of the best ways to access and share your files while on the road. If you have a MobileMe account you can view and share the files on your iDisk right from your iPhone or iPod touch. Just like using the service from a Mac, you log in to see a list of the folders and files on your iDisk. Tap one to see it, or just hit the Share icon, choose who to send it to and they'll get an email with a download link. Easy.

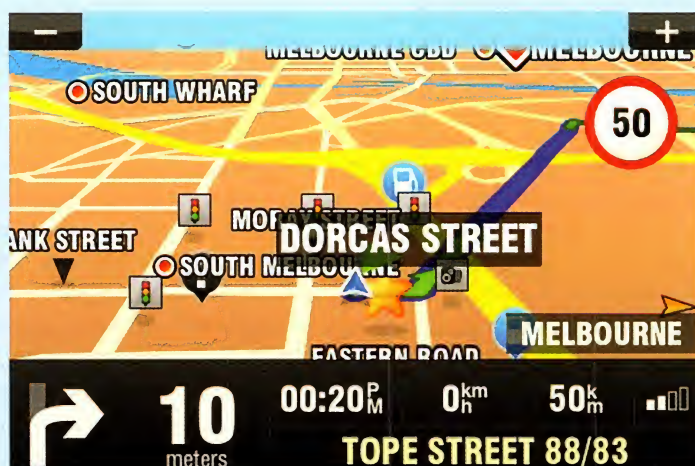
**Apple. Price: Free**

**MOBILE MAPS****GPS**

One of the most useful functions of the iPhone is the ability to use it for satellite navigation. We've tried all of the GPS apps, but our fingers keep straying back to the first one to hit Australia – Mobile Maps from Sygic. It may not have the integration that Tom Tom does, but it has the best interface and adds very handy text-to-speech to the mix. Version 8.0.1 has also added pinch-to-zoom ability and a fresh look. It's not perfect, but it's getting there and is winning the iPhone navigation race.

**Sygic. Price: \$59.99**

(on sale at time of publication)







**EDUCATION**  
**MARTIN LEVINS**

## Where the bloody hell are you?

**W**hen Bill Clinton turned off the military scrambling of the Global Positioning System (GPS) in May 2000, geolocation tools became commonplace in our society.

Let's go beyond the Navman in the car to consider two specific applications that are particularly relevant to schools.

Firstly, consider a school excursion. Agriculture teacher Kerry is driving year 11 students to an intensive feedlot enterprise for an overnight visit (mmmm – camping downwind of a feedlot).

A GPS navigator is the obvious choice to avoid becoming lost, and here's where an iPhone comes in handy.

In January's *AMW*, Anthony Caruana lab-tested GPS systems, including Sygic Mobile Maps and the TomTom applications for the iPhone. Personally, I've gone with the latter, because it integrates so well with its car mount – a feature required by law if the device is to be used in a vehicle whilst driving.

I know people will complain about having to shell out \$160 for a car mount after paying \$99 for the application and Australian maps, but most car mounts will cost over \$120 anyway and the TomTom gives the added advantages of a more sensitive GPS chip to aid the less capable unit in the iPhone and superb integration with audio and hands-free phone operation.

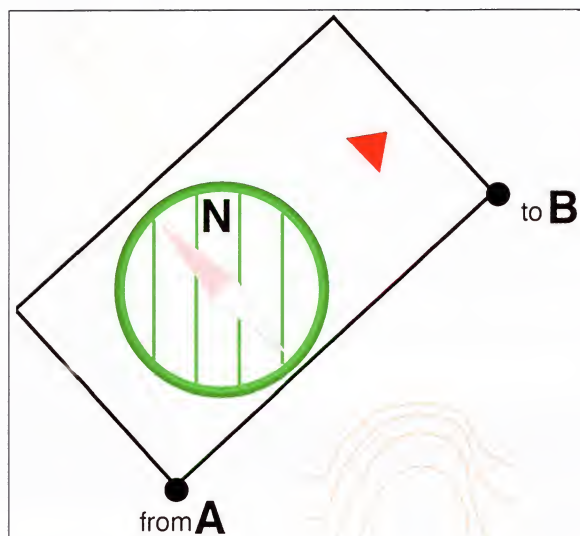
Importantly, the GPS functionality does not require data access – the maps are built in, so you won't have to pay for mobile data.

So now Kerry's school has a portable navigation device combined with a phone for emergencies and parent contact, but also has a device

that can access medical records, parent contact details and so forth, either using the school's web-based management system if 3G service is available, or stored locally in the device (the Evernote app is invaluable here – see Hotlinks).

Additionally, students can take photos and video (with geolocation metadata attached to each one) for review on return to school.

Secondly, for outdoor education excursions that are more remote, such as trekking and similar activities, I've found the SPOT system invaluable (see Hotlinks). No iPhone integration here, as the areas where you want



**The map page can be shared so that parents can see where their children are at any time on their trek."**

to use it are usually well outside 3G phone coverage.

This satellite-based system involves a small, handheld device about the same size as an obese iPhone. It can both receive GPS signals and transmit location data via another satellite. It's simple – having an on/off button, and four others for 'I'm OK', 'Track my progress', 'Help' and '911'.

The second satellite system sends the position data via SMS, email or website on user demand or by tracking, where the geolocation is automatically updated every 20 minutes or so for 24 hours.

Setup is easy – enter the mobile phone and email data on a web page and texts and emails are sent. Additional contacts can be nominated if the user presses the 'Help' key, and, if '911' is pressed, your country's

Search & Rescue authority is alerted from a command centre in Canada. (We covered this indented button with gaffer tape to prevent accidental operation).

The emails will contain a link to the user's position on a Google map, allowing radio conversations such as: "This is group 1, we have reached our campsite."

Teacher: "No you haven't, you're 800m too far to the east!"

The map page can be shared so that parents can see where their children are at any time on their trek.

At \$250 per unit, and a similar amount per year for the service, this is a great safety net to mitigate risk and still allow adventurous kids (and/or teachers) to flourish.

So – no nicking off now, get on with your work. ☹



# Bring it all together.

Simplify your life. Logitech Harmony may be the only remote you ever need.



The weekend's finally here. Your DVR is overflowing and your stack of must-watch DVDs is piled high. It's time to settle in for some serious couch-time. Thankfully, your Logitech® Harmony® 900 remote is charged and ready.

One press of a button and everything turns on in the right order. The correct inputs are selected and the movie starts. And since you'll never need to replace the batteries, you can pause, rewind and replay all the sequels, prequels, spin-offs and follow-ups you can handle.

The Logitech Harmony 900 remote is also the first Logitech remote that features RF technology which lets you control all your devices, even hidden behind cabinets doors.\*

\*within a 100-foot range.



[www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)



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 Monash University On-campus – Ph: 03 9684 3655  
 RMIT On-campus – Ph: 03 9654 8111  
 South Melbourne – Ph: 03 9684 3600

**NSW:**

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 UNSW On-campus – Ph: 02 9385 2377  
 UTS On-campus – Ph: 02 9951 7940

[sales@compnow.com.au](mailto:sales@compnow.com.au)

**comp  
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[compnow.com.au](http://compnow.com.au)





# MUSIC

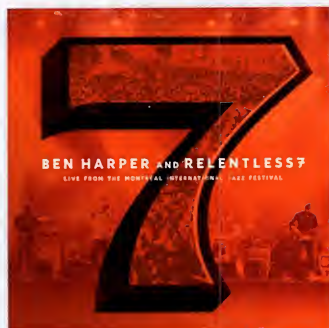


# MOVIES

## LIVE FROM THE MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

By Ben Harper and Relentless7  
Virgin

Compared to the Innocent Criminals who backed Harper on his first concert album, *Live from Mars*, Relentless7 are considerably more rough, tough and, well, relentless. This is, for the most part, a masterfully straight-up set of rollicking, stomp-along blues. — **TM**



## VOLUME TWO

By She & Him  
Spunk

She & Him is the grammatically questionable but undeniably pleasant creation of deadpan actress Zooey Deschanel and producer M. Ward. *Volume Two*, the follow up to their 2008 debut (you guessed it – *Volume One*), is an agreeable slice of sweet, '70s-style pop with a cleverness that shows they clearly put more effort into their music than they do into their album titles. — **TM**



## BRAN NUE DAE

By Bran Nue Dae Cast  
Sony Music

If you loved the homegrown movie *Bran Nue Dae*, you'll also love the soundtrack album. The feelgood music was one of the movie's driving forces, tracking the Broome-bound road trip with a mix of gospel, country, rock 'n' roll, folk and more. A diverse mix, but it all gels so well. All kudos to Broome writer and musician Jimmy Chi and his collaborators for a wonderful piece of work. — **DB**



## DOWNTOWN CHURCH

By Patty Griffin  
EMI

With her soulful seventh album, Patty Griffin delivers a gentle melding of folk, gospel and country that brings to mind Emmylou Harris or the Dixie Chicks – not surprising since her songs have been covered by Harris, the Chicks, Reba McEntire, Bette Midler and others. It's a thoroughly enjoyable listen, providing you can get past the none-too-subtle thread of preachiness that runs throughout. — **TM**



## PRIME MOVER

Madman

Another bittersweet Aussie movie, *Prime Mover* moves from farce to romance to violence and pathos in the time it takes to stop a B-double without using engine brakes. It's the story of a young bloke dead-set on owning his own truck at any cost. He loves his new truck and his new wife and kid, but the thugs he borrowed the money off would love their repayments even more. One for all the emotions, and really worth a look. — **DB**



## HALO LEGENDS

Madman

If you're the kind of videogame player who likes a decent story to sit behind the gameplay, *Halo Legends* will be right up your alley. Many of the stories floating around the periphery of the bestselling *Halo* series of games come to life in this collection of seven short anime films. The animation is particularly good (and stunning in the Blu-ray version). The anime style won't be to everyone's tastes, but if you like *Halo* and anime, it's a no-brainer. — **DB**







# GAMES

Reviews by  
Dave Bullard, Tyler Mathes,  
Tim Mercer & Liana Pappas

## MOON

Sony Pictures

Some time in the future the moon is being used to mine a fusion energy source called Helium-3. The only person based there is Sam Bell (an excellent Sam Rockwell) and a very Hal-like psychoanalysing computer/robot called GERTY. "I can do that for you, Sam ..." Also like *2001: A Space Odyssey* is the slow but steady build-up of a cracking story in which Sam begins to doubt everything about his tenure. A great sci-fi thriller for the thinking movie-watcher. — **DB**



## HACHI: A DOG'S TALE

Sony Pictures

Get out the tissue box ... this is a big-time weepie. Hachi is an abandoned akita puppy taken in by a college professor (Richard Gere). Based on the Japanese movie *Hachiko Monogatari*, it explores the relationship between a man and his dog — and, really, the profound influence our pets have on our lives. It's a beautiful movie on many levels, and Hachi the dog is a real heart-stealer. — **DB**



## MONOPOLY

PLATFORM: iPhone/iPod touch PUBLISHER: EA

Having already delivered an updated spin on *Monopoly* with *Monopoly Here & Now*, Electronic Arts goes back to basics with a classic edition of the iconic board game. The result is a fun trip down memory lane — and past Go — that any fan of the property game will appreciate. Each token has its own animations and sounds as your piece moves around the board. **Price: \$5.99** — TME



## MAG

PLATFORM: PS3 PUBLISHER: Sony Computer Entertainment

This is a strictly online first-person shooter, with up to 256 players, split into three teams, battling it out simultaneously on one map in a huge battle for domination, suppression and acquisition. Though it's a massive game, you never feel that there are that many players as the maps are good. The graphics are OK, but not as good as other shooter games.

**Price: \$109.95** — LP

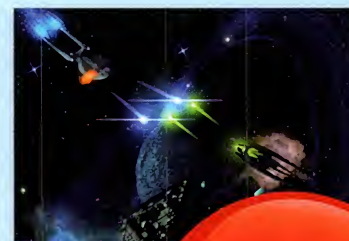


## STAR TREK: D-A-C

PLATFORM: Mac PUBLISHER: Paramount

Based on the latest (and greatest) *Star Trek* movie, *Star Trek: D-A-C* is top-down space shooter more in the mould of older arcade games than modern 3D play-the-movie offerings. Seen in this light, it's a fun, if limited, diversion to dip into — and it's inexpensive at US\$9.99. The game's name comes from its three gameplay modes: Deathmatch, Assault and Conquest.

**Price: US\$9.99** from [www.gametreeonline.com](http://www.gametreeonline.com) — DB



**WIN  
ME**

We have some great *Star Trek* prizes to be won. The three grand prizes each contain a *Star Trek: D-A-C* Win-Mac game retail box AND a *Star Trek* Blu-ray movie, valued at \$66. There are also six prizes of the *Star Trek: D-A-C* Mac game (digital download), valued at \$11 each. To be in the running, send an email with the subject "Star Trek DAC" to [amwcomp@niche.com.au](mailto:amwcomp@niche.com.au) and include your name, address and telephone number. The competition closes on 30 April 2010, and winners will be announced on the AMW Forums, [www.macworld.com.au/forums](http://www.macworld.com.au/forums).



# Melody makers

DAVID HOLLOWAY looks at the latest in music tech from the NAMM trade show in California.

**E**arly each year, the world's most impressive music technology event, NAMM, takes place in Anaheim California. It's the event that tends to drive most product announcements for the first half of each year.

Although the global financial situation may have put a damper on international exhibitors, the show still ended up one of the biggest ever with a swag of new gear announced.

I covered a few on the *AMW* podcast, but here's a more comprehensive look at what's on the horizon for musicians making music on and with their Mac.

## ALESIS Q49 USB MIDI KEYBOARD CONTROLLER

[www.alesis.com](http://www.alesis.com)

The USB MIDI keyboard marketplace is a crowded one, and Alesis has made it even cosier with the announcement of the Q49. Aside from the Alesis pedigree, there are no significant innovations with the Q49.

It's a 49-note keyboard with USB/MIDI and old-style MIDI jacks, pitch and mod wheels, data slider, octave up/down buttons and the ability to trigger MIDI events from keys.

All standard stuff – but this is one to consider when shopping around. Announced pricing is US\$199 (about \$220) with availability by the time you read this.

## DIGITECH JAMMAN SOLO

[www.digitech.com](http://www.digitech.com)

The days of guitar pedals just being a chain of different effects like overdrive and chorus have been over for a while now. Pedals like the JamMan Solo well and truly put another nail in the coffin.

Although it looks like a standard guitar pedal, it can store 35 minutes of CD-quality audio across 99 internal loops – or up to 48 hours and another 99 loop slots if the SD card expansion is used. It also has a USB port to allow connection to the Mac-compatible JamManager software for managing loops you've created.

It certainly increases the immediacy of practising or composing on the guitar, and for US\$309.95 (about \$345) it makes for a relatively low cost recording device. Local pricing wasn't confirmed but it should now be available via local distributor CMI ([www.cmi.com.au](http://www.cmi.com.au)).



## AMPLITUBE 3

[www.ikmultimedia.com](http://www.ikmultimedia.com)

IK Multimedia has announced the launch of AmpliTube 3 (above), the next iteration of its successful amplifier simulation software. The number of available pieces of virtual gear (stomp-boxes, preamps, amps, etc) to work with has increased from 80 to 160. Thirty of those are brand new, with a significant number also revamped.

There's more love for bass players, and each virtual cabinet has dual (virtual) miking, with each microphone able to be manually positioned. RTAS, VST and Audio Unit formats are supported plus there's the expected standalone application.

According to Australian distributor Sound and Music ([www.sound-music.com](http://www.sound-music.com)) it should be on shelves now, though local pricing was not finalised at time of writing. US pricing is US\$349.99 (about \$390) and version 2 sells locally for around \$450, so expect something around there.

## NOTEFLIGHT CRESCENDO

[www.noteflight.com](http://www.noteflight.com)

Noteflight is a free and very nifty web-based scoring application that's been around since 2008. It offers a fairly impressive music score feature set, including import/export, playback and sharing options. The NAMM announcement was of a premium version that offers improved sound quality and more finessed sharing options, which was will cost around US\$5 (about \$5.60) a month.

I spent some time with Noteflight and can vouch it works a treat in both Safari and Firefox. If you're a composer who wants a cheap or free scoring option, Noteflight is a very attractive option.

below. **Pedal power.** The JamMan Solo from Digitech is a guitar pedal that is capable of storing CD-quality loops.





**ROLAND OCTAPAD SPD-30**[www.rolandcorp.com.au](http://www.rolandcorp.com.au)

Roland has also announced a raft of products.

The Octapad drum controller has been around since 1985 and the new SPD-30 looks similar to its predecessors.

Not surprisingly, however, it has more features.

It has eight separate trigger surfaces, from which you can play 50 different drum kits and 670 different percussion sounds; there are 30 types of effects which can be used on each kit; the Phrase Loop option provides real-time loop recording, with up to three parts per phrase; and USB connectivity gives the opportunity to record direct to your digital audio workstation of choice plus the ability to use the SPD-30's sounds via OS X's CoreAudio.

The SPD-30 will set you back \$1299, with local availability from the end of this month via Roland Australia.

**BLUE MICROPHONES YETI**[www.bluemic.com](http://www.bluemic.com)

USB microphones are now about as common as USB MIDI keyboards. That said, there's something a little different about the Yeti: it's the first THX-certified microphone – which means it's considered to deliver high fidelity recording by the people at THX (the company that was started due to George Lucas's disgust with the state of cinema sound systems in the 1980s).

Aside from that, the Yeti is multi-pattern: it can operate as a cardioid, omnidirectional, stereo or bidirectional microphone at the turn of a dial. Like most upper-end USB mics it has gain control, a dedicated headphone jack, master volume, mute button and a mic stand base and mount. It's available now for \$189, via distributor Audio Chocolate ([www.audiochocolate.com.au](http://www.audiochocolate.com.au)).

Dedicated podcasters or sound recordists will find its multi-purpose factor alone makes it worth a closer look.

**ARTURIA ORIGIN**[www.arturia.com](http://www.arturia.com)

The debate on hardware vs software and analogue vs digital has grown even muddier with the announcement by Arturia of the Origin Keyboard. Based on the Origin Desktop, it combines eight soft-synths (Moog Modular, CS-80, Minimoog, Prophet VS, ARP 2600, Jupiter 8 and two organ modules) with a semi-weighted 61-key keyboard.

The eight software modules provide 32-voice polyphony and more than 600 presets. Its software editor is Mac compatible and the 5.2in TFT screen folds down over the keyboard for transport. It also has a 40cm ribbon controller on top of the usual pitch-bend and modulation wheels.

Expect to see this baby pop up in music video clips during 2010 based on its form factor alone. For the gigger musician the integration between hardware and software has some appeal. The Origin Keyboard retails for US\$3499 (about \$3900) – local pricing wasn't confirmed at time of writing but it should be available when you read this. 📺

[www.macworld.com.au](http://www.macworld.com.au)**EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?**

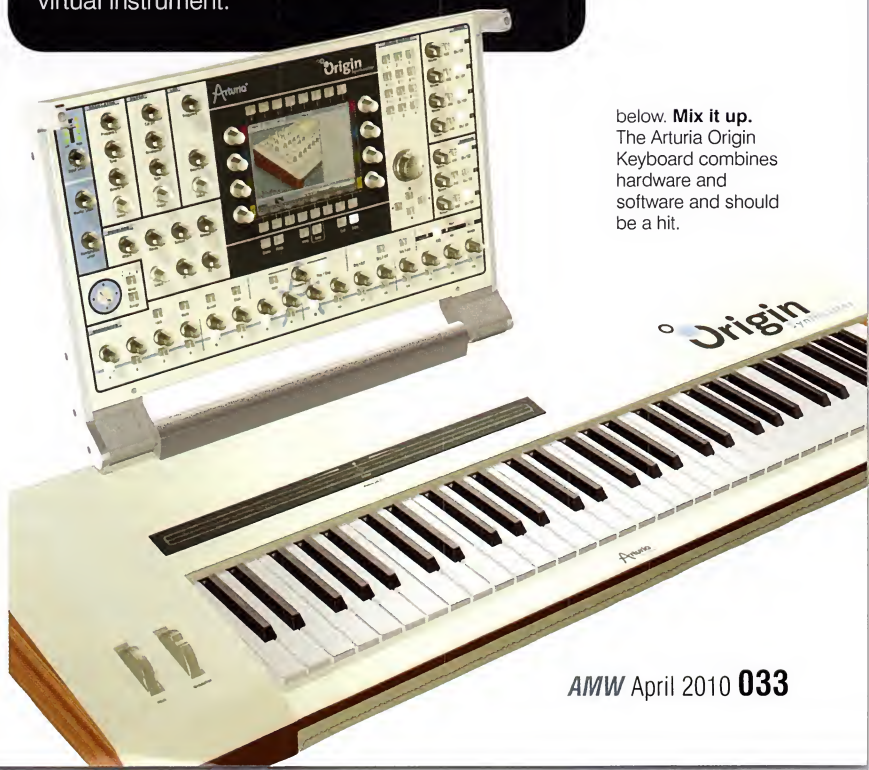
After closely observing the music tech scene for 20 years, I know that one of the more frequent debates is that of 'the next big thing'.

In the mid-1990s, consumer-level audio recording on a computer became affordable for most. In recent years it's been the more widespread availability of virtual instruments that sound stunning while (fairly) happily running on an iMac or MacBook.

Anyone who states that things have reached a peak as far as quality goes will rightly be stoned to death with DAT machines. That said, it does seem like music technology may be in for some more years of incremental improvement rather than revolutionary change.

As Macs get faster processors and even larger amounts of RAM, virtual instruments will become even more responsive, and workstations like Logic will offer greater integration between recording, arrangement and sound creation. Web-based services like Noteflight above will also continue to grow as quality and functionality improve.

The True Holy Grail comes when your Mac can cope with any plugin you throw at it, in as many duplications as you need. When I can run 40 or 50 recent plugins on a MacBook (or iPad?) and record the output without it missing a beat, I know things have truly reached an interesting stage. That, and a truly spectacular Bagpipe virtual instrument.



below. **Mix it up.**  
The Arturia Origin Keyboard combines hardware and software and should be a hit.





**SWITCHER SENSEI**  
DAVID BRAUE

# An in-depth Exposé on Spaces

If brevity is the soul of wit, the designers of Mac OS X are funny guys indeed. Peppered with terms like Exposé, Spaces, Faces and Places, Mac OS X marketing collateral can sound like something out of Dr Seuss – reflecting Apple's obsession with naming and compartmentalising every little thing and positioning it in minute detail.

While you've probably heard these terms, however, newcomers to the Mac may struggle to figure out their use. For all the mystique that Apple marketing gives it, Exposé is simply a way of getting more control over your desktop windows – something that's basically accounted for using Alt-Tab in Windows.

Press F11 (or ⌘-F3 on the newer aluminium keyboards or MacBook keyboards), for example, and all the windows on your desktop slide off the screen so you can access something on your desktop; repeat the keystroke, and they slide back into place.

Apple's obsession with thumbnails is clear in Exposé's All Windows feature: press F9 (or F3 on new keyboards) and your Mac will arrange your windows with all open windows on the top four-fifths of the screen, and all minimised windows in the bottom one-fifth of the screen.

Click on any of these thumbnails and the relevant window will be brought to the forefront of your desktop. You can also use the arrow keys and Enter to move among and select the window you want, and can slide your fingers along the surface of the Magic Mouse to quickly move between items.

The final Exposé feature is called Application windows, and shows only the document windows open in your

current application. Press F10 (or ⌘-F3) and maximised documents go on top; documents minimised to the Dock are shown smaller across the bottom of the screen.

If you have an older mouse, you can use the System Preferences > Mouse settings to launch Exposé by squeezing the sides of the mouse or clicking the mouse wheel. And if you have a recent MacBook, you can use a four-finger gesture to open Exposé. Exposé can also be configured to use different keyboard shortcuts, or to

Apps can run full-screen in each Space, but they disappear when you switch to another Space. Items stored on your desktop appear in each Space, and each uses the same desktop background.

To use Spaces, go to System Preferences > Exposé & Spaces, click on Spaces, and click on Enable Spaces. You can then choose how many Spaces you want to use, and assign applications so they always open in a particular Space, or in every Space.


**Spaces is a virtual window manager that allows you to define up to 16 groups of applications."**



Once Spaces is activated, press F8 to pull up its window, which brings up a Brady Bunch-style grid with large thumbnails showing the position of each application within its Space. You can use the mouse or arrow keys to switch between Spaces; use the mouse to drag and drop applications between Spaces or to rearrange windows within each space. You can also move application windows between Spaces by dragging them to an edge of the screen and holding them there for a moment.

launch when you leave the mouse in a specified screen corner; click System Preferences > Exposé & Spaces.

Spaces is a virtual window manager that allows you to define up to 16 groups of applications. Put all your work applications in one Space, for example, your Windows virtual machine in another, your favourite websites in browser windows in another, and so on.

You don't need to pull up that window to switch between Spaces, however: just use Ctrl-arrow keys to slide between Spaces, or Ctrl-#, where # is the index of the Space you want to move to. The applications you were working on will disappear, and the ones you're changing to will take their places. Used deliberately, Spaces can be a big help in keeping a cleaner working desktop. 



# AUSTRALIAN Macworld

# 2

## MAC BASICS SUPERGUIDE

It's the perfect guide for those new to Macs, or those just wanting to learn more. Now the second edition of the **Mac Basics Superguide** has been completely updated for Snow Leopard – and we've added two new sections on iTunes and iLife.



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# Sharing iTunes libraries

Expanding content, multiple users and Macs, even more iPods and iPhones ... managing iTunes can get both complicated and confusing. Based on his own experience, ANTHONY CARUANA explains how to easily share content in your home.

In October 2001, many laughed at Steve Jobs' latest brainchild – the iPod. How could a US\$400 device that could only store and play music help the flailing tech company rise back to prominence in a market that seemed to have passed it by? Well, almost a decade later, the iPod is the best-selling music player on the planet and Apple's iTunes Store sells more music than any other outlet in the world – 10 billion songs as of the end of February.

However, all that success has led to a new problem: How do we store and share media within our homes and manage that library in a household with several iPods and iPhones, an Apple TV and several Macs?

Our iTunes library is rapidly approaching 1TB in size. As well as a huge library of music either purchased through the iTunes Store or ripped

from our CD collection, we have many movies and TV shows, home videos and podcasts. All of this needs to be accessible to an iPhone, two iPod touches, two iPod Shuffles, an Apple TV, three Macs and a PC.

## THE STORAGE ISSUE

With a library that is growing towards 1TB, holding the library on one of the Macs simply isn't practical because of the obvious issue of disk capacity. As well as the raw size today, our library isn't getting any smaller so a solution that can easily grow is essential. While the latest iMacs are truly excellent computers, they're not easy to upgrade.

That's why we've gone for a networked solution. There are many different NAS, or network attached storage, units on the market, so our recommendation would be to shop around for a unit that supports gigabit Ethernet, offers fast performance and can be easily expanded.

Our network uses a Thecus N5200 loaded up with five 1TB disks configured as a RAID5 array. This gives us a total available capacity of 4TB. The missing terabyte is a redundant drive. In the event that any one hard drive in the array fails, there's no data loss as the spare picks up the slack.

There are desktop solutions that offer two hard drives in a redundant array but their capacity is limited. Also, most of these rely on being connected to a Mac to be accessible. A NAS, on the other hand, doesn't rely on a specific computer to be on

in order to be accessed. Also, most NAS units include an iTunes server built into them. While it's not really suited to sharing a library for syncing to iPods and iPhones, it's an easy way to stream media around your network.

While buying a NAS that can support several drives might cost more now, there's no need to fill all the drive bays at the time of purchase. For example, with our unit we could have started with three drives and then added more as needed.

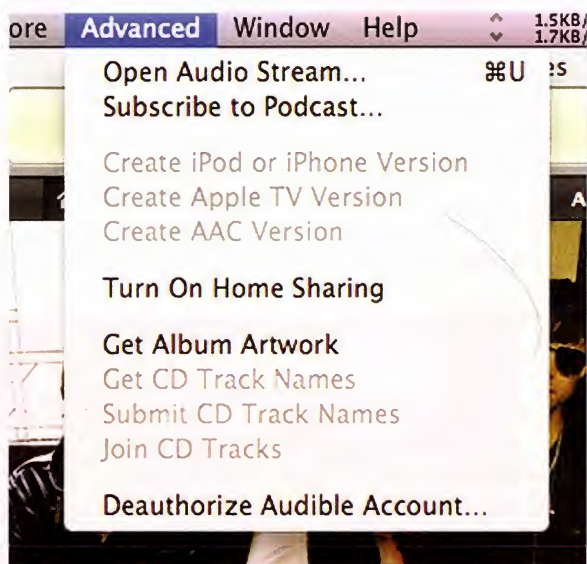
Having chosen a home for our iTunes library, we needed to move the library from a specific computer to the NAS. This is not a difficult operation but can take several hours.

Start by creating a folder on the NAS for your iTunes content. It's important that you ensure that you have read and write privileges to the folder. Then add the folder to your user account's startup items so that the folder is connected to your computer before iTunes starts. This is important as iTunes can easily 'lose' content if the folder it expects the content to be in isn't there when it starts up.

Open iTunes and go to Preferences > Advanced. Change the iTunes folder location and make sure the 'Keep iTunes Music folder organised' and 'Copy files to iTunes Music Folder when adding to library' checkboxes are selected. Hit the OK button and you're nearly done.

Still in iTunes, go the File menu and choose Library > Organize Library. Select the 'Consolidate files' option, click OK and iTunes will move all your

below. **Share nicely.** In order to use Home Sharing you'll need to make sure you're running iTunes 9 or later.





media from its current location to the new one on the NAS. Depending on the size of your library and the speed of your system this may take several hours.

Once the process is complete, right-click (or control-click) several items in your library and ensure that they are on the NAS and not your local hard drive. Once you're happy that your library has been copied to the NAS you can remove the content of your iTunes library from your Mac's local hard drive. As well as making your media more easily accessible, it'll liberate some disk space for you.

### A NAS IS NOT A BACKUP

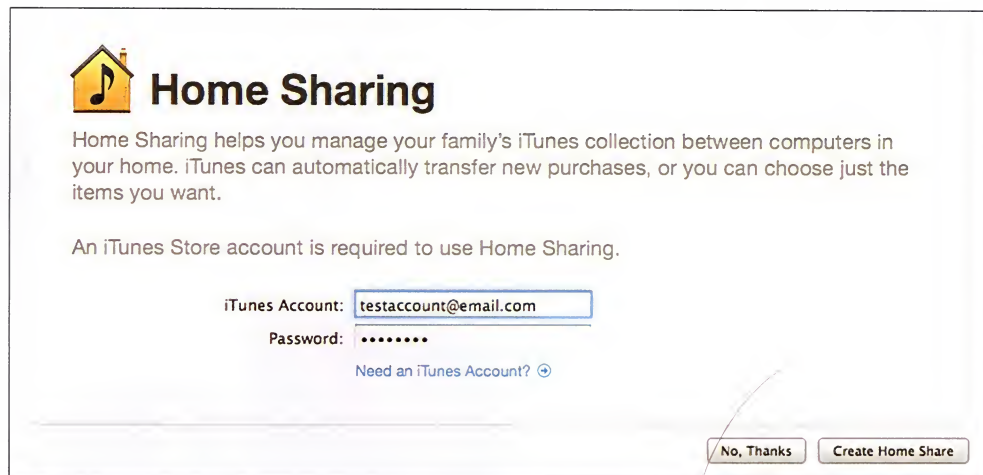
There are two types of hard drives – those that have failed and those that will fail. Although a NAS is probably a more secure and robust storage solution than a regular hard drive it is not a backup solution. NAS units can fail, and when they do the data on their disks can be difficult to retrieve – particularly if the manufacturer uses a proprietary file system.

Whenever you make an iTunes purchase, iTunes prompts you to make a backup to either DVD or CD. It's not ideal as a TV series purchased in high definition might use a couple of discs. However, it's worth doing to protect your purchases.

Those backup discs ought not be stored with your computer. After all, if the computer is damaged in a fire or other disaster then it's unlikely that some DVDs or CDs will survive. If you have an office that's away from home, keep the backups there. Or, perhaps swap backups with a friend so that you look after theirs and they look after yours.

### HOME SHARING

In our setup, we've designated that one Mac is going to act as the master library for all the others. We've chosen this approach as it does away with the need to set up



Most NAS units include an iTunes server built into them. While it's not really suited to sharing a library for syncing to iPods and iPhones, it's an easy way to stream media around your network."

complex file permissions on the NAS. It also means that we can easily take advantage of iTunes 9's new Home Sharing feature. One thing to remember though – no matter how you choose to share your media, Apple's Fairplay DRM only allows up to five computers to be authorised to play back your purchased media. Music you've ripped from your own CDs is not subject to this limitation.

The first step is to enable Home Sharing on all your iTunes libraries. In order to use Home Sharing you'll need to make sure you're running iTunes 9 or later.

Launch iTunes, go to the Advanced menu and select 'Enable Home Sharing'. As long as all your computers are on the same network they'll appear in the 'Shared' section of iTunes' navigation menu. We suggest giving each library on your network a unique name by going to the iTunes preferences and changing the library name. So that no-one in our household became confused, we designated the central library, that acts as the media source for all others as 'Main'.

When you click on the shared library for the first time, you'll be prompted to provide the username and password used for your iTunes Store account. This won't give anyone the ability to use your account to shop – it will simply authorise them to access and play purchased music from your library.

Libraries that are accessed over Home Sharing can be used in two different ways. First, you can browse through the music, movies, TV shows and other types of media, double-click and stream the content from one computer to the other. However, Home Sharing also makes it simple to transfer media between computers. Simply choose a file in a shared library and drag it into your local library.

One last thing: If each person in the home has their own iTunes Store account, then you'll need to make sure that everyone is authorised to use content that's shared between accounts. Apple's Fairplay DRM allows for up to five authorised users.

above. **Authorise access.** When you click on the shared library for the first time, you'll be prompted to provide the username and password used for your iTunes Store account.





above. **Main attraction.** So that no-one in our household became confused, we designated the central library, that acts as the media source for all others, as 'Main'.

## MULTIPLE IPODS

Once your iTunes libraries are talking to each other over Home Sharing it's time to start looking at how your iPods and iPhones integrate into this environment. There are two different approaches that can be employed.

The simplest way is to designate one system as the iPod sync station for the household. Each person can create a set of playlists according to their preferences and musical taste and then use iTunes' sync options to send specific playlists to each iPod.

This is the easiest approach but it means that the library system needs to be accessible to everyone. Also, if more than one person wants to connect their iPhone or iPod at the same time then you'll need multiple connectors.

If each person in the home has their own iTunes Store account, then you'll need to make sure that everyone is authorised to use content that's shared between accounts."

A more elegant approach is to allow each person to sync their library with their own system. Home Sharing allows you to copy content easily between libraries on the same network. Simply drag and drop all the content from the main library to the system that will be used for syncing. As well as music and other media, this approach works for apps, podcasts and anything else in your iTunes library. The only downside is that you can drag content out of a

shared library and not into it. That means purchases made outside the main, central library will need to be copied to the main library from the main system.

Once each 'satellite' library has all the content required, sync the iPod or iPhone to the new library.

## INTEGRATING THE APPLE TV

An Apple TV is really a network-enabled iPod. At the moment, the largest hard



drive Apple offers with the Apple TV is 120GB. Although that seems like a lot, just one high-definition movie will be in excess of 3GB and a standard 22-episode television series will chew up over 30GB.

We'd suggest that you set your Apple TV up to use streaming rather than local storage. That way the Apple TV's drive won't get full and you'll have access to your entire library.

The other advantage to keeping your Apple TV's disk clear is that if you buy or rent movies from the Apple TV, there'll be plenty of space for them so you can start watching your new content as quickly as possible.

And don't worry – any content you buy on the Apple TV will automatically sync back up to your main library.

For streaming to work really well, we advise using gigabit Ethernet for wired connections and 802.11n for your wireless. While the older and slower standards will work (we've tested them just to be sure) there is a noticeable difference.

For example, a feature-length movie takes quite a lot longer to load when using 802.11g instead of 802.11n.

Unfortunately, for an Apple TV to access a shared iTunes library, the main system needs to be left switched on with iTunes running.

If there's content you want available for the times that your main Mac is powered down, you can synchronise that content to your Apple TV by changing the sync settings in iTunes.

Setting your Apple TV to stream content is straightforward. Connect your Apple TV to your LAN (local area network) and add it as a device in iTunes, following the instructions that came with the device.

Then, on the summary screen in iTunes, choose the Custom Sync option and make sure that the 'Show only the synced items on my Apple TV' option is deselected.

Doing this will ensure that your entire shared library can be seen and accessed from the Apple TV.

## CHOOSING A NAS FOR iTunes

A NAS looks like a complex piece of technology but it's really a computer, running an operating system that controls some hardware, not unlike your Mac. Choosing a NAS requires careful consideration. Here are a few things to look out for:

**Capacity.** Don't buy a NAS that can hold your current library. It's likely that over the next couple of years the amount of digital media you have will only expand, particularly if you buy movies and TV shows from the iTunes Store. Start with enough capacity for your current library plus plenty of headroom.

**Expansion.** This is almost always a pay-off with cost. The more drives a NAS unit can house, the more it will cost. If you can manage it, go for a unit with at least four drive bays. Even if you only load it up with two drives now, adding another drive will expand its capacity.

**Noise.** This is often forgotten. If your NAS will be stored on a desk then shop around for a quieter unit. Running several drives and the fans required to keep them cool can make some NAS boxes sound like a helicopter landing on your desk.

**Understand RAID levels.** It might sound complex, but the way drives are configured in a NAS matters. Do some research to understand the difference between RAID 0, 1 and 5 in particular.

**iTunes server.** Not every NAS includes an iTunes server. While many say that they are 'Media Servers' this isn't quite the same thing. The Digital Living Network Alliance, or DLNA, defines a set of standards for sharing media files but Apple doesn't play by those rules, preferring to create its own system.



left. **Sync or swim.** You can sync content from a Mac to your Apple TV by changing the sync settings in iTunes.



# Harmony in the home

Universal remote is an amazing piece of gear.

If you've got home entertainment gear hidden inside cabinets, behind false walls or in the next room, Logitech's radio-enabled Harmony 900 universal remote could be a godsend.

Unlike traditional remotes, the Harmony 900 can shoot through walls and around corners. It comes with a radio-controlled infrared repeater, called a 'blaster', that can live in the next room – pointed at hidden AV gear such as a home theatre amplifier or media centre. Now you can use the remote's infrared transmitter to control your television, while radio waves relay infrared commands for your hidden AV gear to the blaster in the next room.

The Harmony 900 sticks with the sleek design of the Harmony One and comes with a custom recharge cradle. The four coloured function buttons (Red, Green, Yellow and Blue) make a welcome return on the 900, as they're handy for accessing special functions on devices such as pay-TV set-top boxes and media centres.

Design-wise the 900 is exquisite – moulded to fit your hand and perfectly balanced with the most commonly used buttons resting right under your thumb. The LCD touchscreen automatically wakes when you pick up the remote. As for physical buttons, they feel smooth under thumb and offer just the right amount of resistance. A subtle backlight kicks in if you're in a dark environment.

The strength of the Harmony remotes is that they use customisable 'Activities' to let you run your entire home entertainment system. Just tell the software (Mac or PC) all the gear you want to control and it automatically compiles macros and assigns them to Activities such as Watch Live TV or Watch a DVD. This makes it easy for anyone to drive your

lounge room – just press the Activity button on the colour LCD and all the required devices are switched on and configured accordingly. If something should go wrong there's even a Help button that starts reissuing commands until you tell it you've fixed the problem.

Like the Harmony One (\$500), the Harmony 900 can control up to 15 devices, whereas the cheaper Harmony 700 (\$300) can only control six. This is part of Logitech's annoying campaign to strip features out of its new products, forcing you to buy the more expensive model. The old Harmony 785 – which comes with

**The strength of the Harmony remotes is that they use customisable 'Activities' to let you run your entire home entertainment system."**

a recharge cradle and controls 15 devices – is still available online for around \$100.

Once it's finished switching on and configuring all your gear, the Harmony 900 then becomes a remote control for whichever device you're watching – such as your Blu-ray player, PVR or media centre.

Logitech maintains an online library with the set-up for thousands of home entertainment devices but, should you strike out, the Harmony can learn commands from your existing remotes. Configuring it to control an Apple TV is tricky, but it can be done.

Unfortunately, Logitech has made a small change with the Harmony 900 that will frustrate power users. Once you've created an Activity, you can customise the function of each

## Logitech Harmony 900

Logitech, [www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)


**Pros** Easy to use; wireless repeater

**Cons** Expensive

**RRP** \$899.95



button on the remote, but – unlike older Harmony remotes – you can't allocate a sequence of commands to one button.

**Australian Macworld's Buying advice.** Logitech's Harmony 900 is an amazing piece of gear but, at \$900, you'd only buy it if you absolutely needed the RF-controlled blasters. Otherwise you'd be better off with the cheaper Harmony One or Harmony 700. If you care more about substance than style, you could still pick up the old Harmony 785 on the cheap. Still, if you're struggling to control an expensive hidden home theatre then \$900 might not seem too much for an exquisite remote control that 'just works'. 

— ADAM TURNER



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## CASE STUDY



# FileMaker®

Q Brand improves revenue by \$450,000 and productivity by 100 percent using Streamtime

## Q Brand Agency

Q Brand Agency is a hybrid agency that offers the complete package of branding, creative strategy, design, advertising, marketing, account management, media placements, software development, TV production and new media solutions. Q was founded in 1994 and is based in Christchurch with additional branch offices in Wellington. The company employs 20 staff including art directors, copywriters, account directors, designers, post production, media specialists, IT specialists, business development and administration support. Q Brand has been using Streamtime, developed in FileMaker Pro, for seven years now.



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total studio management.

Streamtime has become the single workflow management and database solution for Q, allowing the creative agency to quickly and easily track and manage design jobs, briefs, head hours, disbursements, invoicing, quoting and contact information – ensuring all time and materials are captured and on-charged to clients. The introduction of Streamtime has taken Q from a slow, painful, manual system of entering and tracking jobs, time and billings to a fully automated digital workflow system; improving revenue by \$450,000 and increasing productivity by 100%.



“Streamtime, has revolutionised my business. We easily capture creative and account management time plus all our supplier and third party costs, which means we can invoice confident in the accuracy of our data. In the five years we’ve been using it we’ve improved agency efficiencies and profitability, kept our good staff for longer and built long term client relationships based on trust.”

– Phillip Sunderland, Founder and Managing Director,  
Q Brand Agency.

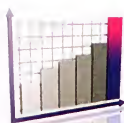
The introduction of Streamtime has taken Q from a slow, painful, manual system of entering and tracking jobs, time and billings to a fully automated digital workflow system. Q Brand has been using Streamtime for seven years now, and it has enabled them to:

- ✓ Capture 75 percent more creative time than previously equating to an annual revenue increase of approximately 30 percent
- ✓ Capture 300 percent more account management time, which means it is able to bill accurately, again equating to approximately \$450,000 in additional revenue
- ✓ Improve agency profitability by 100 percent
- ✓ Increase productivity by 100 percent
- ✓ Reduce time spent by account managers, designers and agency management on administration by 400 percent



# Announcing New FileMaker Pro 11

Tackle any task on Windows, Mac, and the web



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You'll work efficiently with new features for the more experienced developer such as Layout Folders, Portal Filtering, and scripting enhancements.

For more information on all the new features in FileMaker 11, visit: [www.filemaker.com.au/mw/fm11](http://www.filemaker.com.au/mw/fm11)

OR contact our Customer Service Team on - 1800 028 316 (Aust.) - +61 2 9438 4252 (Intl.)



→ **Ravon U222.** This USB speaker is Ravon's latest addition to its speaker line up. Made with mobile professionals in mind, the compact U222 has a foldable design, integrated control panel, carry pouch and a detachable stand for mounting the speakers into one speaker bar with a 5-degree tilt angle.

**RRP: \$129.95**  
Audion Innovation  
[www.audion-mm.com](http://www.audion-mm.com)

# GADGET GUIDE

Gear, gizmos and goodies for your Mac, iPhone, iPod & iPad.



## POWERMONKEY EXPLORERS

The powermonkey eXplorer has proved to be an invaluable piece of kit around the world, providing essential power in the most remote locations. Incorporating the new solamonkey solar panel (not shown), the powermonkey eXplorer lets you charge your iPod or iPhone (and many other devices) wherever, whenever.

AMW has three of these great gadgets, worth \$149.99 each, to give away. For your chance to win one, send an email with the subject line POWERMONKEY to [amwcomp@niche.com.au](mailto:amwcomp@niche.com.au) and answer this question: What four colours does the powermonkey eXplorer come in? (See [www.powertraveller.com.au](http://www.powertraveller.com.au) for the answer.) Please also tell us your name and daytime telephone number. The competition closes on 30 April 2010, and the winners will be announced on the AMW Forums, [www.macworld.com.au/forums](http://www.macworld.com.au/forums).



## → OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro Mini.

OWC's new line of bus-powered portable drives deliver high-performance storage and backup in plug-and-play portables unit that need no AC adaptor. Using FireWire 800/400, USB 2.0 and eSATA interfaces, the drives promise data transfer speeds of up to 300MB/s.

**RRP: from US\$129 (about \$145)**  
OWC  
[www.macsales.com](http://www.macsales.com)



← **RothDock.** The rather clever RothDock enables wireless music streaming from iPhones and iPods to any hi-fi system. The dock can work up to 10m away from the receiver, and a remote control means you don't have to leave the couch.

RRP: \$199  
MAXMEDIA  
[www.maxmedia.com.au](http://www.maxmedia.com.au)



→ **Built iPhone Sleeve.** These super-protective and form-fitting neoprene iPhone sleeves are dressed up in one of three Alexander Girard patterns – including this Retrospective design. They're even hand-washable.

RRP: \$39.95  
Until  
[until.com.au](http://until.com.au)



← **iLuv Tatz.** The funky Tatz Premium Fashion headphones from iLuv are over-the-ear models that come in three styles: Impressionz (red), Scarz (black) and Broken Heartz (pink). iLuv gives no specifications, but they sure look the goods.

RRP: \$149.95  
iWorld Australia  
[www.iworldaustralia.com.au](http://www.iworldaustralia.com.au)

→ **Scosche kickBACK.** This shatterproof polycarbonate and rubber hybrid iPad case has a locking kickstand which enables both vertical and horizontal viewing – and has a low angle setting for typing on the new tablet. Moulded grips on the back will ensure secure handling.

RRP: TBA  
Scosche  
[www.scosche.com](http://www.scosche.com)







➤ **Sony Cyber-shot TX5.** This new snapper from Sony is aimed at photographers wanting a small and stylish camera that is also waterproof (down to 3m), shockproof (from 1.5m) and resistant to dust and freezing (-10C). It has a 10-megapixel sensor, a 4x optical zoom and a 3in touchscreen

RRP: \$599

Sony

[www.sony.com.au](http://www.sony.com.au)



➤ **iKit iPhone flip case.** This iPhone case allows you to enjoy hands-free video viewing. At the rear of the protective polycarbonate body is a simple but handy flip-stand that retracts completely when not in use. It's available in Chrome Black and Silver, and comes with a mirror screen protector.

RRP: US\$35 (about \$39) + shipping

iKit

[www.ikit.com](http://www.ikit.com)



➤ **LaCinema Mini HD.** This is more than a 500GB hard drive – it's a high-definition media streamer that delivers your HD movies, photos and music collections to your widescreen TV in full 1080p resolution. It features built-in high-speed 802.11n Wi-Fi and support for numerous file formats including AVC and DivX.

RRP: \$399

LaCie

[www.lacie.com/au](http://www.lacie.com/au)



➤ **AKG K370.** These in-ear canal headphones from AKG audio promise great bass and high-frequency reproduction. Their inline microphone allows them to double as a mobile headset, and they come with a hard case with room for an iPhone. Frequency response is 12Hz - 24kHz.

RRP: \$229

Audio Products Group

[www.audioproducts.com.au](http://www.audioproducts.com.au)





➔ **Thermaltake Luxa2 H4 iPad Stand.** The H4 is an iPad holder made of solid aluminum with a silicone supporting pad. It has six supporting arms with rubber pins to hold the iPad secure, plus a rotatable pivot for portrait or landscape viewing. It also suits the Amazon Kindle and other e-book readers.

RRP: TBA  
Mittoni  
[www.mittoni.com.au](http://www.mittoni.com.au)



⚡ **be.ez LArabe iPad Allure.** We're seeing some beautiful accessories for the Apple iPad, such as these from French brand be.ez. The LArabe Allure sleeves – which will be available through the Apple Store – have memory foam and a soft, high-grade fleece lining.

RRP: TBA  
be-ez  
[www.be-ez.com](http://www.be-ez.com)



➤ **Energizer AP1500.** Part of the 'Energi To Go' range, the AP1500 is an iPhone protective case with built-in battery. It should provide 10.6 days of standby, 20 hours of music, six hours of video, and four hours of web surfing and talk. It takes a full charge in about four hours.

RRP: \$129  
Energizer  
[energitogo.com.au](http://energitogo.com.au)



⚡ **FUSION Handsfree Bluetooth Car Kit.** The FUSION CA-HF200 is one of the more innovative in-car handsfree units we've seen. It attaches via a cradle to your windscreen and charges through a solar panel on the rear. It features full duplex noise-cancelling, voice-dialling, phonebook integration and caller-ID screening.

RRP: \$129  
FUSION Electronics  
[www.fusionelectronics.com.au](http://www.fusionelectronics.com.au)





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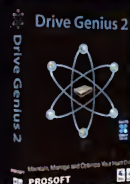
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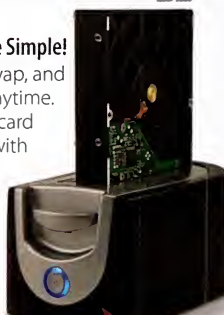
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Upgrades for 667MHz & 800MHz 2.0GHz, 2.66GHz, 2.8GHz, 3.0GHz, 3.2GHz & 3.33GHz Quad-Core, Quad Core x 2 (8-Core) all models

### Memory for the Quad-Core March/2009 'Nehalem' models

6GB Matched Set (2GB Modules x 3)	16GB Matched Set (4GB Modules x 4)	24GB Matched Set (8GB Modules x 3)	32GB Matched Set (8GB Modules x 4)
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Upgrades for 2.66GHz/2.93GHz

### Memory for the 8-Core March/2009 'Nehalem' models

24GB Matched Set (4GB Modules x 6)	32GB Matched Set (4GB Modules x 8)	48GB Matched Set (8GB Modules x 6)	64GB Matched Set (8GB Modules x 8)
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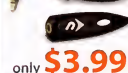
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# Dynamic dynamite

It's a drawback of photography that many of your shots will lack detail in the highlights or shadows – or both. But an exciting technology allows you to produce photos correctly exposed in all areas. JAY TOWN explains HDR.

**T**he big thing in photography that has everybody talking is High Dynamic Range, or HDR. It's been around for a while, but now there are chat rooms dedicated to it and online galleries that specialise in it – and I challenge you to pick up a real estate brochure that has photos in it that weren't taken using HDR. It is simply *the* buzzword in digital photography.

For decades photography has struggled to compete with our own eyes for recording detail. It is a simple fact that our eyes are so sensitive and accurate that nothing comes close. Have you ever looked around a room and seen detail in the furniture and on the walls, and

at the same time, been able to see people walking by in the bright sunshine outside? Our eyes can do that without a problem. So why can't our cameras?

You see, while a landscape may contain a light dynamic range of 50,000 to 1, our cameras can only record a ratio of 300:1. HDR steps in to try to emulate our sight.

Essentially, what HDR software enables us to do is to capture the highlights from one end of the scale and the shadows from the other end, as well as all the nice bits in the middle, and then reconstruct them into an acceptable photograph.

How we do this is to take a series of photographs at different

exposures, by bracketing. You can accomplish this with as little as three shots and as many as nine, with a better result with the latter, but you would obviously sacrifice processing time with the more shots you take.

The first trick with this bracketing is to bracket the speed and not the aperture. If you change the aperture, you also change the depth of field, and if everything isn't uniformly sharp, it won't work.

If you are doing a five-shot exposure, set your bracketing for two stops under, one stop under, correct, one stop over and two stops over.

Then you can simply set your mode to aperture priority and fire off a salvo of bracketed shots.





Most of the programs used to put together HDR images have an image alignment function, so you don't even have to use a tripod.

Of course, you don't want to move the camera around a lot during your burst. If you are doing an HDR sequence at night, then you'll have to use a tripod, the same as you would for a normal shot.

There are quite a few HDR programs around, and it's really a matter of trial and error to find which one suits you. I like to put my initial series together using Adobe Bridge and then choose Tools > Photoshop > Merge HDR.

The beauty of using Bridge is that you can easily see where your sequence starts and finishes. Using programs that don't give you a visual of your image means that you will have to move the pictures in a sequence to their own folder or rename them so things don't get too confusing.

Once your pictures have been merged, you usually end up with a photo that looks terrible.

With Photoshop, you can set your white point and then work the various tones to achieve the required result, but I like to save the merged file as a Radiance file (it ends in .hdr), and then use a program like HDRsoft's Photomatrix (www.hdrsoft.com) to open that file and then apply Tone Mapping to it.

This is where the magic really starts. You can alter the amount of strength, saturation, luminosity, smoothing and contrast to make your end result look just the way you want it.

You can produce a photo that looks realistic with exceptional detail in both shadow and highlights, or you can take it to the extreme where it looks more like an illustration and not a photograph at all.

There is no set rule, but more a 'what works for you' sort of issue. Mind you, if it ends up looking too unrealistic, you may love it now, but cringe looking back onto it down the track.

Some of the programs around let you create a pseudo HDR image from a single RAW image. Because RAW has so much latitude, it is possible for these programs to effectively create a series of under and over exposed images from the single RAW and then tone-map them as you would a normal HDR.

The result is not as good as one from a series of bracketed shots, but there is one huge difference between the two. In the RAW version, things can be moving! You could create an HDR photo from a football match or a sailing boat.


Photomatrix can actually eliminate unwanted moving objects in your series. This is really handy if you are doing an HDR and someone walks

past through the scene. This way, the end result will be better than from a single RAW image, but you can still have a limited amount of movement in the scene.

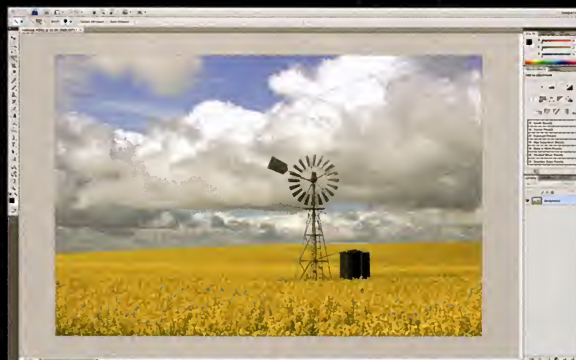
With some new cameras coming out with an in-camera HDR mode and almost everyone having a go at some form of HDR, this is an issue that's not going to go away in a hurry.

For me, it's the next level of creativity that makes HDR so attractive. It is also what makes in-camera HDR systems less attractive.

Using off-camera software, 20 photographers could shoot the same scene with exactly the same cameras, exposures, bracketing, etc, and then apply their individual adjustments to the Tone Mapping, and none of the 20 end results would look the same.

In a funny twist, by using HDR we are getting closer to what our eyes see. And by using HDR we are all seeing things differently ... like our eyes do. As they say, art is in the eye of the beholder. 

clockwise from main picture. **Range finding.** The finished HDR pic; the image open in PhotoMatix pro, with the Tone Mapping dialogue box; the Merge HDR process in Adobe Bridge; and the result of selecting 'merge HDR' in Photoshop.





# New dimensions

3D stills and movie camera is just brilliant.

Following its rebirth (again), 3D is a hot topic in the cinema. Sniffing a trend, Fujifilm has introduced an innovative camera/viewer system that should satisfy those keen to enjoy stills in 3D.

The twin-lensed camera captures left and right eye views with two 3x optical zoom lenses, spaced about 7.7cm apart. These images are fed to a pair of CCDs. Take your shots, wait a tick, then look at a 3D image on the 7.1cm LCD screen. Stunning stereo!

The trick is achieved with a lenticular (ribbed) screen grid, that presents the appropriate view to the specific eye, in the same manner as novelty lenticular postcards. For an even more spectacular experience there is a USB-connected REAL 3D V1 viewer with a 20cm screen.

There are a few caveats: the interocular separation is set for subjects 2.3m or farther away; it's best if you don't shoot with an extended depth range; and the best 3D shots should have a range at least 2m or more away. But believe me, the effect is magic.

In use the camera captures a JPEG and an MPO image. The former



## Fujifilm FinePix REAL 3D W1 System

Fujifilm, [www.fujifilm.com.au](http://www.fujifilm.com.au)

**Pros** True stereo capture.

**Cons** Small print size.

**RRP** Camera, \$899; viewer, \$699



wide, the other at tele, or a pair with different colour or ISO settings.

I have to admit I was stunned at the brilliance of the camera but even more impressed at its movie talents. The resolution is only 640 x 480 pixels, but the most mundane scene just floats past you in depth on the camera's screen or on the viewer. Amazing – but you can't run 3D on a normal TV.

So on to the viewer. You can either connect it directly to the camera or slip an SD card into it. You can also add the images to its 512MB of internal memory by an infrared link.

The Fujifilm 3D print system will initially be offered via an online microsite. Files are uploaded, printed in Japan and posted back to the consumer. Current UK pricing starts at £3.99 (about \$7) plus postage.

Soon there will be a dye sublimation 3D printer available, so you can DIY 3D prints in four sizes from 4 x 6in to 6 x 9in.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** The easiest way to shoot 3D stills — so far. A top techy trick! 📷

— BARRIE SMITH

I was stunned at the  
brilliance of the camera.”



is a normal 2D image, and the latter is the 3D image, viewable in stereo on the camera or view screen – and able to be printed by a Fujifilm service or, soon, a 3D printer for the home.

Like most digicams there are the usual features: face detection; onboard flash; scene modes such as night, portraits etc; plus continuous mode at 2fps.

There is parallax control to vary the image separation. If you feel the lateral positioning is wrong, you can vary it. Amazingly, you can even realign the lenses' relative vertical axes. They've thought of everything.

Back in 2D, you can shoot a pair of 2D shots, one with the zoom set to



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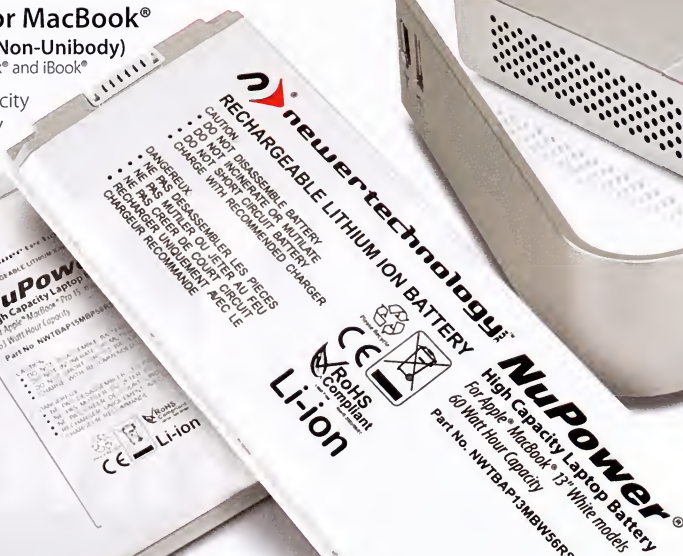
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# SECURITY for beginners

How to keep your system safe  
from snoops, thieves and malware





**T**he newest version of the Mac operating system, Snow Leopard (OS X 10.6), has added a few security improvements, including a beefed-up malware detector and new firewall settings, to help you protect your Mac and your data from thieves, viruses, hackers, and other dangers.

This feature will give you the essentials to safeguard your files, personal information and communications. With a little work and knowledge, you can greatly decrease the likelihood that your information will fall into the wrong hands.

## Put user accounts to work

---

One of the easiest things you can do to keep out casual snoops and to protect the files on your computer is to require users to log in. OS X lets you set up separate user accounts for everyone who uses your Mac, giving you precise control over how much access each account has and who can access your Mac at all. But for user accounts to be effective, you have to make sure you've set them up in the most secure way.

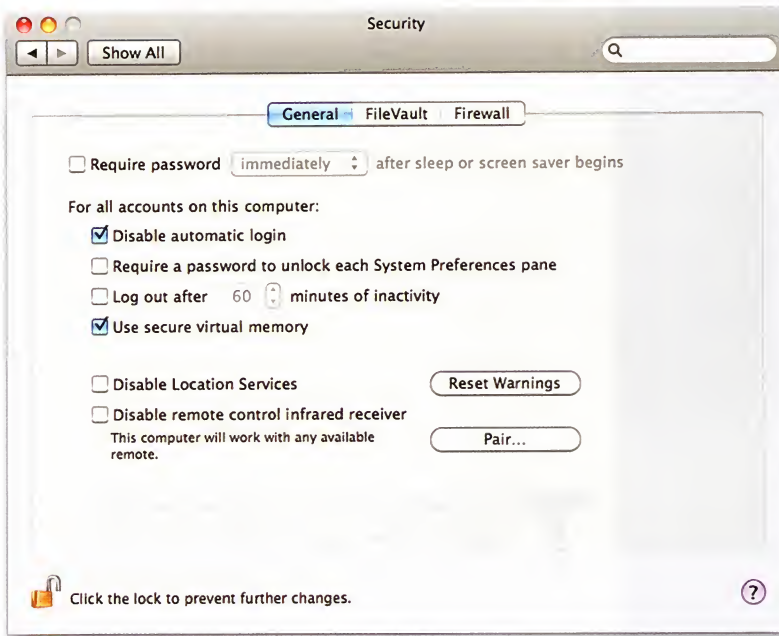
### SET UP MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS

If more than one person uses your computer, make sure each user has a separate account. Doing so keeps mail, documents, keychains, browser history, and other personal data safe from casual snooping.

Every Mac has at least one administrator account, which gives you the freedom to install software in the root-level Applications folder, change preferences that affect the entire system, and create and delete other user accounts. However, it's not a good idea to give other users this much power over your system. That's why OS X offers additional types of accounts that place limits on these activities: Standard, Managed (with the option of parental controls), and Guest.

When adding accounts on your Mac, make sure the 'Allow User To Administer This Computer' option is deselected. If you'd like to further limit the account, select





above. **Not so fast.** Disable automatic logins so only authorised people can access your Mac.

the 'Enable Parental Controls' option, and then click the 'Open Parental Controls' button to define what programs and activities that user can access.

## USE ADMIN ACCOUNTS SPARINGLY

Using an administrator account as your normal, day-to-day login account can be risky. First, you make it easier to mistakenly change or delete something crucial to your computer's operation. Second, you open a potential security hole: if you step away from your computer for a moment without logging out, anyone who walks up to your Mac has complete access to your data and any unlocked settings.

The safest course is to set up a second user account without administrative privileges, and use that as your main day-to-day account. To set up a new non-administrator account, create a Standard account and make sure that the 'Allow User To Administer This Computer' option is not selected.

## DISABLE AUTOMATIC LOGIN

By default, OS X logs you in when you turn on your computer. This is convenient, but it also leaves your Mac and its files vulnerable to anyone who pushes the power button. Forcing your Mac to ask for a password on such occasions can increase your security and make your data harder to access.

Open the Security pane in System Preferences and click the General tab. If necessary, click the lock icon at the bottom of the window and authenticate with your administrator password. Then turn on the 'Disable Automatic Login' option. This will ensure that the automatic login feature is disabled for all user accounts and all users will have to log in with a password.

## OTHER LOCK-DOWN PRECAUTIONS

With automatic login disabled, your Mac will be protected when you log out or turn it off, but what about when you just step away? Go to lunch or step away from your computer in a coffee shop, and anyone can come by, press a key to wake your computer, and access your files.

**Automatically lock your Mac.** Prevent this easy access by requiring a password when anyone deactivates the screensaver or wakes your computer from sleep. Go to the General tab of the Security preference pane and make sure that 'Require Password (amountoftime) After Sleep Or Screen Saver Begins' is enabled. In Snow Leopard, you can now specify a time delay (5 seconds; 1, 5, or 15 minutes; or 1 or 4 hours) before that password is necessary.

**Manually lock your screensaver.** If you don't want to only lock your screen when the screensaver activates or your computer wakes from sleep, Keychain Access holds the key. You can use this application (in your Applications/Utilities folder) to quickly activate your screensaver from the menu bar and require a password to turn it off – even if the Security option isn't enabled.

Open Keychain Access and then go to Keychain Access > Preferences. Click the General tab and select the 'Show Status In Menu Bar' option. A small lock icon will appear in your menu bar. Close the Preferences window and quit Keychain Access. Now click the lock icon in your menu bar and choose Lock Screen to start your screensaver.

**Set more options.** But you're not done yet. Back in the General tab of the Security preferences window are several additional safety measures that can help keep your data secure. The 'Require Password To Unlock Each Secure System Preference' option prevents changes to system-wide settings without an administrator password.

The 'Log Out After (numberofminutes) Minutes Of Inactivity' logs you out of your account, locking any encrypted disk images in the process, if you step away for an extended period of time (see 'Encrypt Your Data' later in this feature for more on encryption).

## Create strong passwords

All the encrypting and logging out in the world won't protect your data if your password is 'p@ssw0rd'. Make your passwords easy to remember, and someone may guess them. Make them hard, and you may forget them yourself. Mac OS X has the answer: Keychain Access.

## USE KEYCHAIN ACCESS

Keychain Access is a nifty utility that can hide all sorts of information, from password hints for websites to notes on a confidential business deal. It can also help ensure you're choosing good passwords that outsiders can't easily guess.



By default, Keychain Access unlocks as soon as you log in to your Mac. Unfortunately, this means that anyone who can access your Mac will be able to open your password-protected items. If you use Safari's AutoFill feature, that could include your bank account, your Amazon account, your .Mac account, and more. For an added level of security, give Keychain Access a password that's different from your user-account password.

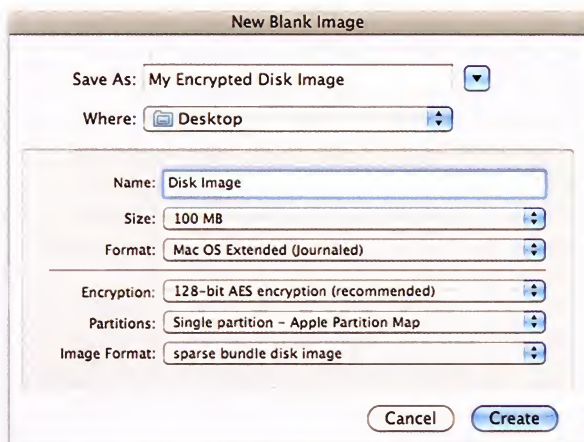
Open Keychain Access (/Applications/Utilities), and select your keychain in the list of keychains. If there's not one with your user name, then the login keychain will be the default. Select Edit > Change Password For Keychain (nameofkeychain), and then enter a new password and type it again in the Verify field.

Once your keychain is unlocked, it usually stays that way until you log out or shut down your Mac. To give your passwords a little more protection, set the keychain to lock when it's inactive. Open Keychain Access and select Edit > Change Settings For Keychain (nameofkeychain). In the Keychain Settings window that appears, select the 'Lock After (numberofminutes) Minutes Of Inactivity' option, and specify how much time should pass before it locks. Also choose the 'Lock When Sleeping' option here.

## CHOOSE STRONG PASSWORDS.

Anyone wanting to break into one of your accounts would start by trying to guess your password. He or she would begin with words and numbers that have significance for you. Therefore, you should never use the following as passwords: Your name or nickname; the names of your spouse, kids, or pets; your birth date, anniversary, or spouse's or kids' birthdays; any part of your address or telephone number; favourite sports teams; or anything else that someone who knows you well might be able to guess, or that could be found in public records. Also avoid obvious choices such as 'password'.

It's important to try to use different passwords for each account. If you use one password for all your accounts, a thief only has to guess it once to access everything.



## Encrypt your data

User accounts and passwords will protect your files from casual break-in attempts. However, serious thieves can work around these roadblocks. Someone could use an OS X install disc to reset your password, or remove your hard drive and view the files on another computer. To protect your information, consider encrypting any truly sensitive data on your hard disk. This ensures the privacy of data by making it essentially impossible for anyone else to read it.

above. **Password protection.** The colour bar indicates how strong your password is.

bottom left. **Bundled up.** When creating an encrypted disk image in Disk Utility, use these settings for the best results.

## FILEVAULT

The FileVault feature encrypts the entire contents of your user folder. To activate FileVault, go to the Security preference pane and click the FileVault tab. If you haven't already done so, click 'Set Master Password' and specify a password that you can use to unlock FileVault if you forget your regular login password. Make sure the password is secure but memorable, as there's no way to recover it if you forget it. Then click 'Turn On FileVault'.

The process of encrypting your user folder takes time, so you'll have to be patient. Remember that before you start, you'll need at least as much free space on your disk as your user folder currently occupies. Once FileVault is on, logging out will encrypt all your files, and logging in will decrypt them again. One flaw is that Time Machine doesn't work well with FileVault, and will back up only FileVault-encrypted home directories when the user logs out.

## DISK UTILITY

Despite the ease with which you can set up FileVault, few Mac owners use it. For one thing, it's kind of silly to encrypt all your music, photo, and video files along with your truly confidential documents. What's worse, encrypting all your data with FileVault can be dangerous; even a minor disk error could leave you unable to access any of your files.

Luckily, your Mac also includes a less blunt instrument: Disk Utility. With it, you can create encrypted disk images that act (in most respects) like regular folders, except for one big difference – they won't mount unless you supply



the correct password; when unmounted, they're digitally scrambled. You can then put only the files you really need to protect into that encrypted folder, while leaving your iTunes and iPhoto libraries, browser cache files, and less sensitive documents unencrypted.

To create a disk image, open Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities). Choose File > New > Blank Disk Image. Enter a name for the disk image file and choose a location. Next, enter the volume name – the name you want the mounted image to have. From the Size pop-up menu, choose the maximum size you want your disk image to be (for example, you might want to use 4.7GB, so that even if you fill up the disk image, you can still burn it to a DVD-R). Select Mac OS Extended (Journaled) from the Format pop-up menu. Finally, choose '128-bit AES Encryption (Recommended)' from the Encryption pop-up menu, leave Partitions set to 'Single Partition—Apple Partition Map', and choose 'Sparse Bundle Disk Image' from the Image Format pop-up menu. Click Create and enter a password.

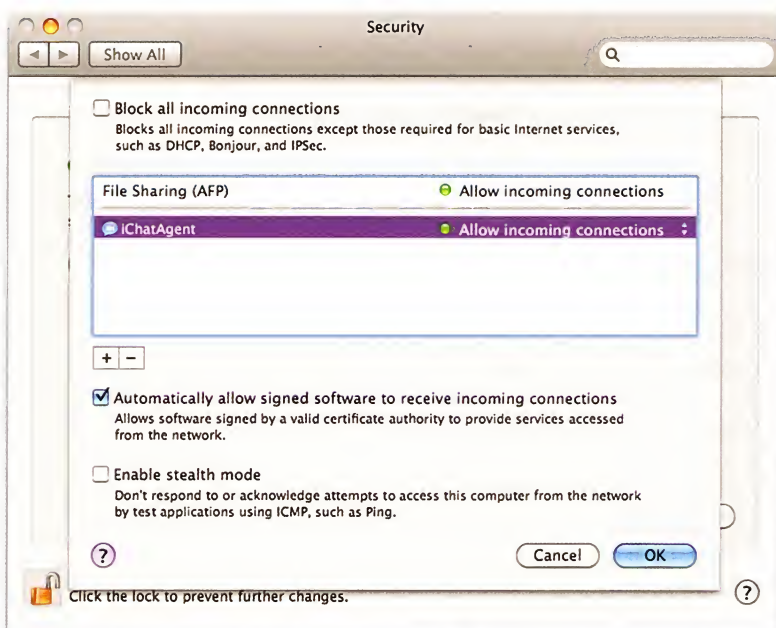
## Make secure connections

When you connect with the outside world, you potentially open yourself up to intruders and snoops. Defend your information with these tools and tricks.

### PUBLIC NETWORKS

When you're on a public network, it's possible for outsiders to snoop on your network traffic by looking for strings of characters that might be passwords or account numbers. Unfortunately, public hotspots rarely use Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) encryption, and even the few that do aren't necessarily secure.

below. **New firewall settings.** Snow Leopard's firewall settings give you greater control over incoming connections.



To stay safe when joining unknown networks, you can secure your individual activities. For example, you can protect your email by using a web service or an email application that supports SSL/TLS (Secure Sockets Layer/Transport Layer Security), or turn on iChat encryption to protect quick conversations.

A better option is a virtual private network (VPN) connection, which protects your entire network.

A VPN client connects to a VPN server or gateway, creating an encrypted tunnel between the two. Most VPNs use a protocol called IPSec, although some still use an older, less secure standard called PPTP.

Many companies offer VPN access for their mobile workers (check with the IT department at your work). You can also 'rent' access to a VPN that will protect your surfing, email, and other connections over the local network.

### OS X'S FIREWALL

As you install and use programs on your system, you often open ports without realising it. And there's always the possibility that a chink in OS X's armour will lead to a wave of new exploits. That's why it's imperative to turn on OS X's built-in firewall when using unsecured internet connections.

Snow Leopard's firewall settings have been considerably revamped. To turn on your firewall, open the Security preference pane. Select the Firewall tab and you'll see a simple On/Off setting. To configure the firewall, click the Start button and then the Advanced button.

The 'Block All Incoming Connections' option is the equivalent of the old Allow Only Essential Services option. It allows access to all nonessential services and applications. It prevents file sharing, remote access, and other optional services. Use this option if you really want to block everything – for instance, when you're on potentially hostile networks, such as those in hotels or public hotspots.

The 'Automatically Allow Signed Software To Receive Incoming Connections' option gives signed software (apps with a valid certificate) access to the network. If you want to make your computer invisible to unapproved traffic, select 'Enable Stealth Mode'. You can disable this option if you want better control over which applications accept network connections.

You can also choose whether to allow file sharing for individual programs. Click the plus sign (+) to add a program and choose 'Allow Incoming Connections' or 'Block Incoming Connections' from the drop-down menu on the right.

You really should switch your Mac OS X firewall to 'Block All Incoming Connections' and 'Enable Stealth Mode' when you are travelling. When you return home, you can switch back to more lenient settings or simply turn the firewall off.





## Stay safe online

Viruses. Spyware. Internet hackers and wireless prowlers. It's a dangerous world, and although your Mac is the safest personal computer, it's by no means invulnerable. But with a little awareness and work, you can keep out of trouble.

### MALWARE BASICS

While malicious software has long been a near-daily annoyance for Windows PCs, Mac users have become accustomed to not having to worry about malware.

With Snow Leopard, Apple has decided to take some preventative measures against malware, much as it has done in the past with anti-phishing features in Safari. For the first time, the Mac OS contains a built-in system that detects malicious software and attempts to protect users from inadvertently damaging their computers.

OS X's File Quarantine tool checks files that are downloaded from the internet via Mail, Safari, or iChat. A warning reveals which application downloaded the file, from what site, and at what time. It offers the option to continue opening the file, to cancel, or to view the source.

In Snow Leopard, Apple has enhanced File Quarantine to also check files against known malware, pulling from a list of malware definitions that Software Update keeps current.

If you try to open an infected file, Snow Leopard will present a warning. If you've enabled Safari's 'Open "Safe" Files After Downloading' preference, you will be prompted with this dialogue box when the download completes and the file opens (but before any malicious code can execute).

Snow Leopard defines an expanded list of applications for which it quarantines downloaded files (that is, marks them as having come from the internet). So if you download a file via your web browser, an email client, or iChat, Snow Leopard will check it for malware when you open it. However, if you grab an infected file from another source, such as an FTP site, a file-sharing service or a program that Apple's system doesn't cover, Snow Leopard won't detect it.

Macs contain no built-in way to clean malicious software after they have been infected. For that, you'll still need to turn to third-party antivirus products.

### PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

There are many other ways your system can be compromised. Here are some simple ways to protect yourself from the biggest threats to your Mac:

**Use an antivirus program.** If you run Windows on your Mac, you should install a Windows antivirus program on your virtual PC. Symantec (symantec.com) and Intego (intego.com) offer dual products for users who run both Windows and OS X. Just as important as having antivirus software is making sure its virus definitions are current.

**Don't fall for phishers.** Remember that legitimate banks and online vendors would never send you an email asking you to confirm account information or reveal personal data. When in doubt about where a link in an email message leads, check its real destination before clicking it. If you're in Mail, just hover your cursor over the link for a moment, and a dialogue box showing the true URL will pop up.

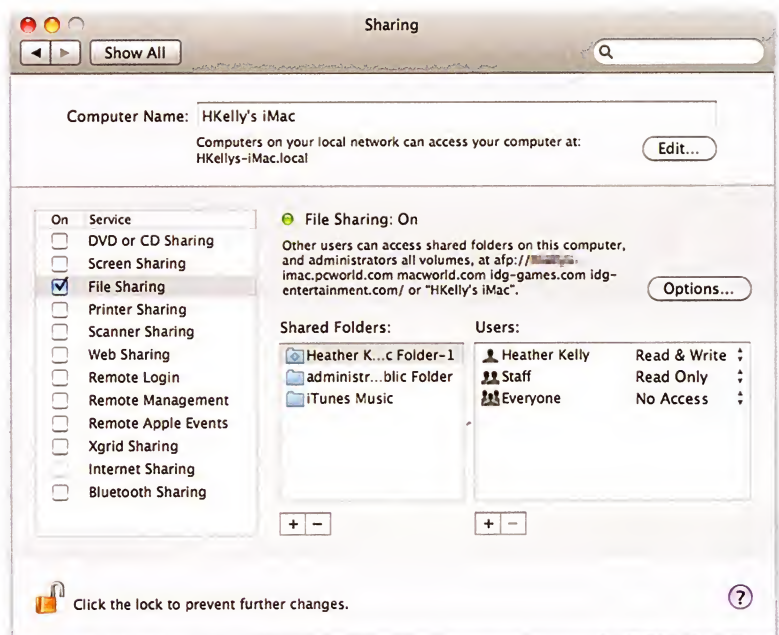
**Stay up to date.** Protect yourself from malicious software by making sure your Mac is always up to date. Make sure your Mac's Software Update preference pane is set so that your Mac checks regularly for new software. Checking weekly should be sufficient for most people. But if you're in a higher-risk category – if you regularly visit unknown websites or use personal file sharing or web sharing, for instance – you should check daily.

**Customise Sharing preferences.** Hackers attempt to attack your computer over the internet by finding open, unsecured ports and exploiting them. To stay safe, make sure you open only the ports that need to be open.

Open your Sharing preference pane. Here you'll see a checklist of sharing options such as File Sharing (which lets other users access files on your Mac), Screen Sharing (which lets them see your screen), and Remote Login (which lets other people access your Mac using SSH). Turn off any services that you don't need by removing the checkmarks from the boxes next to their names. Also, to make sure that your Mac thwarts hackers' attempts to sniff out open ports, turn on your firewall.

top left. **Are you sure?** Snow Leopard checks downloaded files and warns you if there is a potential threat to your Mac.

below. **Cautious sharing.** Thwart snoops by keeping only essential services turned on in the Sharing preference pane.





# Solve printing woes

Top tips for basic printer troubleshooting.

**P**rinting a document is usually one of the easiest things you can do on a Mac. Select File > Print, and you're pretty much done – that is, unless your printer refuses to print. Restocking the printer's paper tray will often solve the problem, but when obvious solutions like that don't work, figuring out what to do can be a difficult and time-consuming troubleshooting task.

Here are some frequently asked questions and the simple – and not-so-simple – answers that will get your printer moving again.

## ? My printer completely stopped printing. What should I do?

Start with the basics:

**Check the power.** Make sure your printer is turned on and powered up.

**Check the paper.** Make sure there is paper loaded. Typically, if there's no paper, you'll see an alert on your Mac's display or the printer's LCD panel. Check the printer even if no error message pops up.

**Check the connection.** Check that the cable (probably USB) connecting

the printer to your Mac or router is plugged into the appropriate port. If necessary, try a different USB port.

**Check what's selected.** If you have more than one printer connected, make sure you've selected the one you want in the Print dialogue box's Printer pop-up menu. If you've selected a printer that's currently turned off, nothing will happen.

### TIP:

If subsequent visits to the Print dialogue box reveal that the Printer pop-up menu has reverted back to the wrong printer, go to the Print & Fax system preference. From the Default Printer pop-up menu, select your desired printer.

**Check for ink issues.** If the printer's ink or toner is low, replace it. Low ink or toner is much more often a problem with inkjet printers than with laser printers. Making matters worse, many inkjet printers are notorious for not printing at all when even one of their multiple ink cartridges is empty. When your printer's ink needs to be replaced, you should get an alert message on both your Mac and the

printer's display. If you don't see a warning but you still suspect a problem, select your printer in the Print & Fax system preference, click on Options & Supplies, and then click on the Supply Levels tab for information.

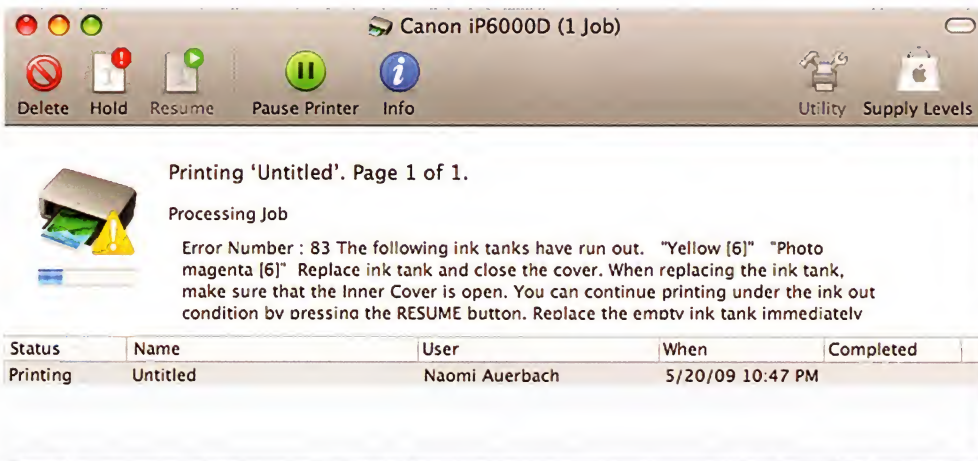
You might see only an 'Information Not Available' message. In that case, use Spotlight (⌘-spacebar) to see whether your printer came with its own utility, and try launching the utility directly.

Note that printer utilities typically don't work if a printer is connected to a Mac over a network – for example, through an AirPort base station. To work around this, you'll need to temporarily connect your printer to one of your Mac's USB ports.

### TIP:

A message that says you're low on ink may be incorrect. In particular, if you haven't used the printer for a while, the problem may be that the print head's nozzles are clogged. To check for this, and hopefully fix the problem, clean the nozzles with the appropriate feature in the printer's utility. (Look in the manual that came with your printer to find out how to do this.)

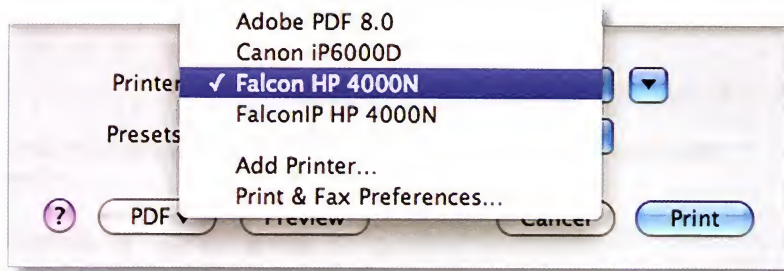
below. **Errors explained.** The Print Queue window is often your best resource when you want to find out what went wrong with your print job. Note: The windows vary slightly between different versions of Mac OS X but are essentially the same.



## ? I checked all the basics, but I still am unable to get anything to print. I did notice that a Dock icon for my printer is bouncing up and down. What should I do now?

That Dock icon represents your printer's queue (in other words, the list of jobs waiting to print). You might also see a yellow triangle icon containing an exclamation mark. This alert indicates that the printing process has gone awry.





**A message that says you're low on ink may be incorrect. In particular, if you haven't used the printer for a while, the problem may be that the print head's nozzles are clogged."**

To find out more, click on the printer's Dock icon. The Print Queue window should open and, with luck, contain a message that describes the cause of the printing failure.

If the message refers to your paper tray or ink levels, follow the aforementioned instructions for resolving those problems. If the message offers other clear advice (such as to click on Resume), follow it.

#### Delete old jobs and reset.

Otherwise, select the name of the print job in the Print Queue window and click on Delete in the toolbar. If you see older jobs listed here, delete them too. When you're done, the status message in the Print Queue window should say 'Printer Ready'.

As an extra precaution, turn your printer off and back on again. This 'resets' the printer, potentially correcting any trouble on the printer's end. Now go back to your application and try printing again.

**Check the error log.** If that doesn't do the trick, select Printer > Log & History while the Print Queue window is open. This launches Console and takes you to the printer error log file (in your hard drive's /var/log/cups directory). The messages here, while often beyond the understanding of mortals, occasionally manage to point to the precise cause of your problem.

For example, the log once identified an improperly installed

ink cartridge in my inkjet printer. I removed and reinstalled the cartridge – printing problem solved!

#### TIP:

To open a printer's Print Queue window at any time, even if its icon is not in the Dock, go the Print & Fax system preference, select the printer's name and click on Open Print Queue.

**? The printer icon showed up in the Dock, but it's not bouncing. When I go to the Print Queue window, the status message seems to be stuck at 'Connecting'. What does this mean?**

Your Mac is probably unable to locate the printer. Make sure it's turned on. Also make sure that your printer is connected properly and that there isn't a paper jam. If your printer is in some sort of 'offline' state (a message on the printer's display will typically tell you if this is the case), turn it off and then back on again.

**Prevent shared-printer problems.** If you share your printer over a network, you need to perform some other quick checks. First, go to the Mac that's connected to the printer and confirm that the Mac is on and not asleep.

Next, open System Preferences on that Mac and take a look at the Sharing system preference. Confirm

that the Printer Sharing option is enabled. Next, look at the Print & Fax system preference and make sure the Share This Printer option is enabled.

**Beat wireless woes.** If the printer is connected over a wireless network, make sure that your computer and the printer are on the same network. For example, if you inadvertently connect to your neighbour's password-free network, your printer will not show up.

More generally, confirm that your wireless network is functioning properly. To do so, go to the printer's Print Queue window and select Printer > Network Diagnostics.

If everything appears to be OK, make sure the Mac knows that the printer is connected. To do this, launch System Profiler (in /Applications/Utilities) and go to the relevant section for your printer's type of connection. For example, for a USB-connected printer, go to the USB section.

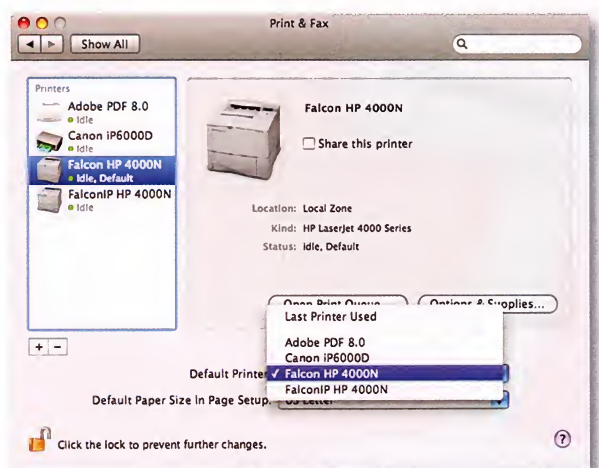
If you don't see your printer listed, the problem may be at your Mac's end of the chain. Restart your Mac and check System Profiler again.

If the printer still doesn't appear, you may have a hardware problem – one of your USB ports could be malfunctioning or your printer could be broken. To zero in on the cause, try general troubleshooting techniques. For example, switch the printer to a different USB port. Also try printing from a different user account.

— TED LANDAU

top left. **Select the correct printer.** If the wrong printer shows up in the Print dialogue box, select the correct one from the Printer pop-up menu.

below. **Determine the default.** If the wrong printer keeps showing up in the Print dialogue box, make sure you've designated the printer you want as your Default Printer in the Print & Fax system preference.





## Liquid Digital reader tip:

## GREAT KEYPAD REPLACEMENT

I was very annoyed on opening my new MacBook for the first time to find that there was no numeric keypad, let alone numpad markings. I quickly discovered the answer on my iPhone. The answer to this problem is the app 'NumPad – Wireless Numeric Keypad' from Edovia. For just \$3.99 you get the option of three different numeric keypads to suit any Mac, be it MacBook, MacBook Pro or otherwise. It also has support for all six Sibelius music layouts. There are also a couple of other feature-lacking pads available on the iTunes store – just search the App Store for NumPad! You'll be recommending the product in seconds.

Hey, thanks for producing a great magazine.  
Ari James Mansfield, St Georges, SA

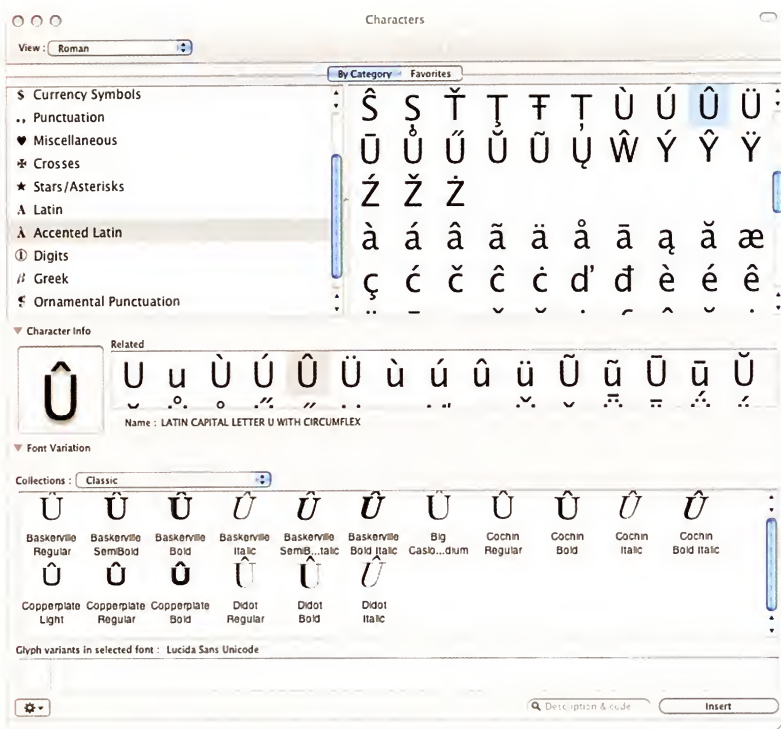
Each month, Liquid Digital gives an aGent V5 webcam valued at \$119.95 to the *Australian Macworld* reader who submits (via email or the *Australian Macworld* website) the best and most useful tip. Preference will be given to undocumented tips but it is not an exclusive condition.

The sleek, sophisticated aGent V5 webcam from Liquid Digital is compatible with all Macs (OS 10.4+) and is the perfect choice for the design-savvy Mac user. The latest V5 model features full-HD 1920 x 1080 2-megapixel quality. With a five-layer German quality glass lens, an ultra-light, low-light sensor and an enhanced digital in-built mic, the V5 is a great choice for flexible, stylish web image and video applications. In the box is the brushed-steel-cased aGent V5 webcam with MacBook and iMac attachment clips, USB 2.0 and

1.1 adaptor, microfibre travel case and driver disc.

Email your tip with the subject header 'Help reader tip', including your full name, address and phone number, to [macworldeditor@niche.com.au](mailto:macworldeditor@niche.com.au) or make a contribution

in the Help section of [www.macworld.com.au/forums](http://www.macworld.com.au/forums). All reader tips offered online or via mail/email become the sole property of Niche Media.



above. **Find characters.** You can use the Characters palette to insert non-English characters.

## CREATE NON-ENGLISH CHARACTERS

**? When you are typing in Spanish, how do you make an N with a tilde (~) over it?**

Chris Rattan

The short answer is to hold down the Option key and press the N key, and then press N again to get the ñ character. On the first press you'll see the tilde as well as a line beneath it. That line indicates that this character will be placed over the next compatible character you type – for instance, you can press N or A and the character will appear as ñ or ã. But if you press R, which isn't a compatible character, you'll see ~r. (To get Ñ, press Option-N and then Shift-N.)

The Mac supports a variety of diacritical marks – added glyphs that appear above or below letters. And they're often produced in the same way. For example, to create an umlaut (ö), press Option-U and then type a compatible character. For an

accent grave (à), press Option-tilde and then the character.

If, like me, you rarely use these characters, you may not remember the key combinations for creating them. Fortunately you don't have to. In many applications you'll find a Special Characters command at the bottom of the Edit menu. Select this command, and a Characters palette appears.

Within this palette choose Roman from the View pop-up menu and select Accented Latin from the list below – a pane to the right will display accented characters. Select the character you're after, click the Insert button at the bottom of the window and the character will be placed in your document at the insertion point.

You can produce this Characters palette even when an application lacks a Special Characters command. If you're using Leopard, launch System Preferences, select the International preference, and click the Input Menu tab. Then enable the Character Palette



option, and you will be able to produce the palette by choosing it from the menu bar. The steps are similar when you're running Snow Leopard except that you choose the Language & Text preference, select Input Sources, and then enable the Keyboard & Character Viewer option.

— **CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

## UNDERSTAND IPHONE TIME ZONE SUPPORT

**? How is time zone support supposed to work on the iPhone? I enter a meeting while in my home time zone. When I get to the meeting site in another time zone, my iPhone resets to the local time and the meeting time is wrong – it reflects my home time zone.**

*Paul Velleman*

The way the iPhone OS works with time zones is confounding to some people. It's like this. On the iPhone or iPod touch, choose Settings and then Mail, Contacts, Calendars; scroll down to the Calendars area, and tap Time Zone Support. In the resulting Time Zone Support screen, you see two items – Time Zone Support (On/ Off) and Time Zone.

When Time Zone Support is off, the time of any events that appear in the Calendar app – whether created on the iPhone or in iCal and then synced to the device – will shift, based on the time zone in which the iPhone or iPod touch currently resides.

So, for example, if you live in Brisbane, create an event for 1 pm on Monday, and you and your iPhone journey to Perth, the event's time will shift to 11am. When Time Zone Support is switched on, the time for the events will be based on the time zone selected in the Time Zone Support screen. So, if that time zone reads Hobart, an event on the iPhone or iPod touch originally created for 1pm AEST time will

remain 1pm regardless of the time zone in which the device currently sits.

The trick to putting this feature to good use is understanding when it's best to allow events to shift and when it's better to leave them alone. The rule of thumb I use is this: If the bulk of my work involves dealing with the folks back home, I allow events to shift by switching off Time Zone Support.

For example, if you have a call scheduled for 3pm on Tuesday back home in Sydney and you're in Singapore, it's far better that your iPhone lets me know that this event will take place at noon. On the other hand, if while at home, you've scheduled a week's worth of meetings in an exotic spot such as Copenhagen, you'd probably like the events' times to stay exactly where they were when you first entered them. This is when you'd turn on Time Zone Support.

— **CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

**below.** Time Zone Support. With Time Zone Support on, events reflect your home time zone.



## RECOVERING AN ERASED HARD DRIVE

**? I accidentally erased one of my drives using Disk Utility. Nothing has been written to the drive since it was erased. Do you have a suggestion for the best software for recovering the files?**

*William Eschenfeldt*

If you didn't choose one of the secure erase options (which will overwrite your data with junk, making it much harder to recover the data), you have a decent shot at getting your data back.

I can suggest a couple of tools that I've had success with.

The first is Prosoft Engineering's US\$99 (about \$110) Data Rescue 3 ([www.prosofteng.com](http://www.prosofteng.com)). Unlike some other utilities that demand that you install them on a drive before the bad thing happens, Data Rescue 3 works after the effluent has forcefully made contact with the rotating blades.

I've also had good results with SubRosaSoft.com's US\$89.95 (about \$100) FileSalvage ([www.subrosasoft.com](http://www.subrosasoft.com)). Like Data Rescue 3, it recovers lost data after the damage has been done. Additionally, it lets you search for specific file types.

Before you invest your money in either program, download the free demos. When you run each demo, it'll display all the files it can find. You should choose the program that best identifies your data.

Note that, regardless of which tool you pick, recovering data can take hours. Data Rescue 3 is faster than the previous version, Data Rescue II, but it can still take a long time to retrieve your data. The same goes for FileSalvage.

If you have a high-capacity drive from which you're attempting to recover data, start the job before going to bed. By the time you wake up, your recovered files should be waiting for you.

— **CHRISTOPHER BREEN**



STM query of the month:

## AXE ON A MAC

I got a electric guitar for my birthday last year so I could finally learn how to play one! Between moving into my first house and renovating I haven't had much time to practise. When I do I use the Garage Band Lessons. I only have a basic guitar and amp but would also like to connect it to my Mac. Which is the best way? I checked out this page: [www.apple.com/pro/techniques/connectingguitar/index.html](http://www.apple.com/pro/techniques/connectingguitar/index.html)

For a learner like me and with fairly cheap/basic equipment which is the best way to go? JamieZ, via Australian Macworld Forums

**pmoeser answers:** You shouldn't need a special Monster cable (as shown on the Apple page you pointed to). You should be able to do it with a plug adaptor from Jaycar or Dick Smith. Just put it on the end of your guitar cable and plug it in. Just be careful of the weight of the cable pulling too hard on the socket. Pile up some old hardcover books. (While you still have them, that is. The iPad's a comin'!)

**David Braue adds:** You can also use a headphone extender (probably \$10 from Dick Smith) to provide a plug into which you can plug the guitar without actually plugging it into the Mac – plug the extender into your line-in, and the heavy guitar plug can sit on your desk instead. And you'll need a 1/4in female to 1/8in male audio adapter to suit the larger plug of your guitar (the "plug adapter" pmoeser referred to).

One tip: Be aware of the volume you're inputting – check your levels (at a hard strum) before recording so make sure you aren't maxing out the volume and getting distortion.

Another tip: Don't worry about guitar effects: you can record your clean audio in GarageBand and apply loads of guitar effects in GarageBand later.

Each month STM (02 8338 0222) gives a Remedy shoulder bag worth \$99.95 to the *Australian Macworld* reader who send in or posts to the forum the most intriguing query. STM's Remedy bag is a slim, light shoulder model that provides heavy-duty laptop protection. Send your query to [macworldeditor@niche.com.au](mailto:macworldeditor@niche.com.au) or post in the forums at [www.macworld.com.au/forums](http://www.macworld.com.au/forums). All queries and solutions are the sole property of Niche Media.



## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EMAIL DECEPTION

**? When I visit some websites, I'm asked to provide an email address. I'm concerned that this will lead to more spam. Any suggestions?**

Gary Campbell

Ignore your Sunday school teacher and lie. When asked for an email address for no good reason, feel free to enter [joblow@example.net](mailto:joblow@example.net) and smack the Return key. With luck, the website will take this as the goods and let you get on with your business.

Regrettably, this doesn't work as well as it once did. Increasingly, a website will ask you to submit an email address and then will email you a link to whatever you've requested. If the address you submit is no good, you can't get the thing you were after.

That doesn't mean you must offer your main email address, though. I've created a couple of free Google and Yahoo addresses for exactly this purpose. When asked for an email address that I know will generate an activation message, I plunk in one of these addresses. I check that account for the activation email and then ignore the account until I next need it.

Gmail allows you to get even finer with this. You can customise your Gmail address by placing a

plus sign (+) after your username and then adding some identifying text. For example, mail sent to [example+softwarereg@gmail.com](mailto:example+softwarereg@gmail.com) will arrive at the [example@gmail.com](mailto:example@gmail.com) address. This is useful because you can then set up a filter in your email client that looks for addresses that contain plus signs – [example+forumreg@gmail.com](mailto:example+forumreg@gmail.com) and [example+purchase@gmail.com](mailto:example+purchase@gmail.com).

If you have a MobileMe account, you can create up to five alias addresses. Messages sent to these aliases are forwarded to your primary MobileMe address. So, for example, when dealing with Company X, create an alias for [joblowcompanyx125@me.com](mailto:joblowcompanyx125@me.com). After you've received Company X's activation email, delete the alias. Any future messages sent to this account won't go through, as it's now a dead address.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

## 'LOCK' AN EXTERNAL DRIVE

**? Is there software that can lock an external hard drive so that if someone gets hold of it, they won't be able to view the data?**

Dustin Kuo

What you need to do is create an encrypted space on all or a portion of your drive and then move the files you want to protect into it. You can do this in a number of ways. One method is built into Mac OS X.

Open Disk Utility, choose File > New > Blank Disk Image, and in the resulting window choose 'Sparse Disk Image' from the Image Format pop-up menu and either 128-bit AES or 256-bit AES encryption from the Encryption pop-up menu.

Then choose a size from the Size pop-up menu (if the preconfigured sizes don't suit you, select Custom and then enter a size). Name the image, save it on your external drive, and click the Create button. You'll be prompted for a password. Enter and verify that password and click OK, and



## TIP: ADD PHOTO BOOTH, iCHAT EFFECTS

Photo Booth includes a collection of 24 image-altering effects you can use to distort your photos. Sixteen of them are also available in iChat. But if those aren't enough for you, you can add 20 more.

To do so, you'll need a text editor that can handle binary .plist files. BBEdit, TextWrangler and Apple's own Property List Editor should work.

To start, you need to copy some files from /System/Library/Compositions to /Users/yourusername/Library; if you don't see a Compositions folder there, create one. The compositions in the System-level Library won't all work with iChat and Photo Booth.

Among those that should work are ASCII Art, Blue Print, Blur, City Lights, Color Controls, Color Invert, Compound Eye, Concert, Crystallize, Dot Screen, Exposure Adjust, Gamma Adjust, Kaleidoscope, Line Overlay, Line Screen, Monochrome, Neon, Pixelate, Pointillize, Posterize, Sharpen, Tracer, and Zoom Blur.

Copy as many of those as you wish to /Users/yourusername/Library/Compositions.

Before you proceed any further, take note: Some users have reported crashes with Photo Booth or iChat after adding some of these effects. As I say, the effects above reportedly work, but they may not on your system. You've been warned.

Still with me? The next step is to edit the files you just copied. Launch your binary-friendly editor and then open one of your copied files.

Find and delete these three lines:

**excludedHosts**

**com.apple.PhotoBooth**

**com.apple.iChat**

When you've done that, save the file.

Test the edited effect in Photo Booth or iChat before changing another one. If you crash after adding these effects, the fix is simple: Remove the effect from /Users/yourusername/Library/Compositions.

— ROB GRIFFITHS

you'll have a protected image that can be opened only with your password.

Move your files into this image, and you're good to go. Note that you should not store this password in your keychain if you're concerned about security. Also, this image will take up only as much space as the accumulated content inside it. So, even if you've asked for a 5GB image file, if you put 1GB worth of files in it, the image will be only 1GB. You can then continue to add files until you reach that 5GB limit.

Another free option is the open-source TrueCrypt ([www.truecrypt.org](http://www.truecrypt.org)). This is a cross-platform tool

that you can use to encrypt folders and volumes. Again, if you intend to encrypt an entire external hard drive, you'll first have to move the files off that drive, format it with TrueCrypt, create an encrypted volume, and then copy your files to that volume.

And then there's the \$35 Knox ([www.knoxformac.com](http://www.knoxformac.com)) which, like Disk Utility, creates images by using either the 128- or 256-bit AES standard. Unlike Disk Utility or TrueCrypt, you can use Spotlight to search the contents of a Knox image (or 'vault') when it's open. And Knox includes a backup feature.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN



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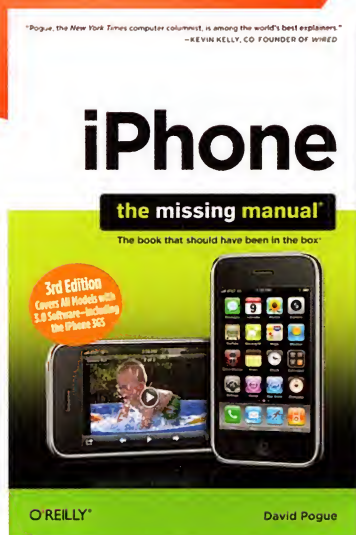


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# JACKS OF ALL TRADES

Multifunction printers not only save you money on hardware – you don't have to buy a printer, a scanner, a copier and a fax – but can also save you money on ink and paper if you make the right choices. ANTHONY CARUANA explains how.

**W**e've been hearing it for years – the paperless office. As data storage increased, communications networks expanded and displays improved, we expected the number of trees being felled to fuel our thirst for paper to fall. But it never happened.

Independent research by Gartner and IDC puts the cost of printing at between 1 and 3 percent of revenue for businesses – that's a lot of money.

However, over the last 20 years a new category of printer, one that could help us save on printing costs, has come to the market – the multifunction centre, or MFC.

MFCs combine at least three different functions into a single device. At the very least a MFC will print, scan and copy. Some add faxing to the equation. The majority of consumer and small business MFCs use inkjet printing, although there are quite a few laser-based units on the market.

The most basic MFCs on the market retail for under \$100. While they look attractive at first glance, they skip many features that we think should be on your shopping list. Of the five units we looked at, four include a sheet feeder for the scanner. We suggest that this is a very handy feature. As bills, letters and other correspondence come in, a sheet feeder makes it easy to scan the

paper for electronic storage. That way, you can reduce the need for binders, shelves and filing cabinets.

For those concerned about the Australian Taxation Office's view on such things, the ATO says that, 'Where paper records are produced or received in the course of carrying on business, the Tax Office accepts the imaging of those records onto an electronic storage medium provided that the electronic copies are a true and clear reproduction of the original paper records.'

We'd also strongly recommend that you consider the ability to print double-sided, or duplex, as an important feature. Businesses that set duplexing as a default on their printers make substantial savings on paper costs.

If you can manage it, CD/DVD printing is handy as well. If you need to send disks to clients being able to print your logo on the media makes you look a lot more professional than a scrawl in permanent marker.

Finally, look at the cost and capacity of consumables. We'd suggest that the true cost of a printer needs to take this into account. Also, look for units that let you buy separate colour cartridges. Entry-level MFCs often have a black cartridge and a colour one. With these, if the magenta tank in the colour cartridge is emptied first, then the whole cartridge needs

to be trashed. Once you're out of the entry level, each colour can be replaced separately.

All printers we looked at were set up using Snow Leopard's default drivers. When you connect a printer with Snow Leopard it's able to determine the make and model and then retrieve the latest driver using Software Update. We tested the printers using their Wi-Fi, Ethernet and USB connections.

**We'd strongly recommend that you consider the ability to print double-sided, or duplex, as an important feature."**



Outstanding



Very good



Good



Flawed



Unacceptable





## Epson TX610FW

Epson has been one of the leaders in quality printing for many years. The TX610FW does that reputation no harm.

The TX610FW has quite a large footprint and consumes a significant amount of desk space. Once we had it on the desk and powered up, the touchscreen display made it easy to configure the printer and have it ready to use. Connectivity to our test systems was flexible with USB, Ethernet and Wi-Fi all available. We installed it by establishing a connection and then letting Snow Leopard determine the best driver to use – there was no need to install the software on the accompanying CD.

Snow Leopard's printing system detected the TX610FW as a Bonjour device and the Snow Leopard driver allowed us to use all of the printer's features. Using both Preview and Image Capture, we were able to scan images and pages from both the flatbed and document feeder.

Most printers use a four-cartridge system. The TX610FW uses a six-cartridge system that is supposed to deliver improved print quality. In our testing, we found the photo printing to be very good. We also used the scanner to copy a photo, and found that some skin tones were pale and some objects came out dark.

Paper handling was competently managed. The tray has two sections so we could load A4 into the main part with photo paper in the second section. It was easy to choose which paper source we wanted to use when sending a job to the TX610FW.

Complex documents from Pages with sections of solid colour, photos and text printed very nicely. Plain text documents from Microsoft Word were easy to read.

Epson, [www.epson.com.au](http://www.epson.com.au)

**Pros** Plenty of features, dual paper feeds

**Cons** Inaccurate photo scanning

**RRP** Printer, \$249; Replacement cartridges, \$140



## Brother MFC-9120CN

Those looking for a business-ready, multifunction colour laser would do well to consider the Brother MFC-9120CN.

Installation over Ethernet and USB was straightforward using the printer setup utility. The printer was recognised instantly and an up-to-date driver was installed in quick time. There are four toner cartridges to install as the MFC-9120CN is a CYMK printer. It can also send and receive faxes.

Once we were up and running the printer was quick to react and print over our network. However, one glitch we encountered was that the printer sometimes paused after a job, so the next job would be held until we un-paused it.

In addition to printing over Ethernet, scanning using Preview and Image Capture worked well using both the flatbed and document feeder. Jobs could also be scanned and directed to a computer. It should be noted that the MFC-9120CN is designed for a small- to medium-sized office. Photo printing to special papers is not supported.

Print jobs were processed very quickly over Ethernet and USB and quality was very good. The printer was so fast that in one of tests we thought it had ejected a blank page as it came out print side down in only a second or two.

Pages of text and complex document from Pages with blocks of colour, text and images printed very clearly. Paper handling was covered by the large main bin and a second feed – handy for feeding envelopes or labels when required.

Given the size of the MFC-9120CN, it's not really suited to being placed on the desk next to a workstation. Also, we found that even when inactive, the MFC-9120CN emitted a low hum, adding to the ambient office noise. We'd suggest that users keep this printer on a table away from the desk.

Brother, [www.brother.com.au](http://www.brother.com.au)

**Pros** Very fast

**Cons** No wireless, noisy

**RRP** Printer, \$899; Replacement cartridges, \$400







## HP OfficeJet 6500

HP has a multifunction for almost every type of user at almost every price point. The HP OfficeJet 6500 is a very competent printer that's suited to the home and small office.

Installation was a snap. Once we'd worked through the 6500's menu, using the small display and adjacent buttons, we had the printer connected to our wireless LAN. Test systems running Snow Leopard found the printer almost instantly over Bonjour. Software Update then installed the most recent driver and all of the functions were available.

One thing that did get a trifle annoying was the 6500's noisy workings. Even when idle it made the occasional sound as part of its pre-sleep mode ritual. It wasn't a big deal but if you're concentrating on a task it can be disturbing. The 6500 should be able to fit on a regular office desk.

In copying a photo it did a good job with faithfully reproducing skin tones and other colours although it seemed a little 'flat'. Also, unlike the more consumer focused printers, it didn't allow you to scale a photo on the flatbed to fit the paper you wanted to print on. Our test photo was a 7 x 5in and there was no way on the printer to scale it to 6 x 4in. Photo printing from iPhoto, on glossy stock, was very clear.

Document print quality was excellent. Text was very clear and images and solid blocks of colour printed evenly with no striping or other artefacts.

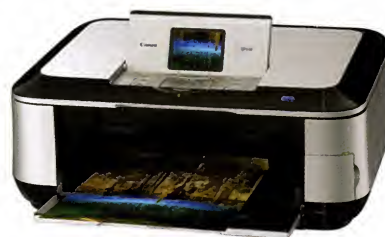
Paper feeding was a little painful as there's only one paper tray. A second tray for letterhead, photo paper or some other stock would assist with not having to constantly swap paper in and out of the feeder.

HP, [www.hp.com.au](http://www.hp.com.au)

**Pros** Great print quality

**Cons** Single paper feed, noisy

**RRP** Printer, \$299; Replacement cartridges, \$100



## Canon Pixma MP640

Canon has been in the print and imaging game for so long that it always ends up on the shortlist when looking at multifunction systems. The MP640 sits in the middle of their consumer/SME range and is a very solid unit.

Installation was straightforward using Snow Leopard's default drivers although we did encounter one hassle. Our test system had Parallels installed and the network connections it established interfered with printer detection of the network. Once we disabled those connections through System Preferences we were OK. Printer connections by USB, Ethernet and Wi-Fi are supported.

The MP640's print quality was excellent. Photos were faithfully reproduced from originals and our Pages test document printed nicely although blacks weren't very deep.

Paper handling was covered by two separate feeds. The driver was smart enough to know that we had A4 in the main tray and photo paper in the rear tray and directed jobs accordingly, although we could specify trays if we wanted.

Copying photos was well handled. We were able to take an A5-sized image, and, using the controls on the MP640's display, scale it to fit 4 x 6in photo paper. The copied photo was an excellent copy of the original. Printing from iPhoto delivered excellent results as well.

Scanning over a network connection was straightforward using Image Capture and Preview. It's also possible to initiate scanning at the MP640 and then direct the output to a computer on the network, although this required installation of Canon's proprietary software. The MP640 lacks a automatic document feeder but does include double-sided printing and CD/DVD printing.

Canon, [www.canon.com.au](http://www.canon.com.au)

**Pros** Easy setup, excellent print quality

**Cons** No sheet feeder option

**RRP** Printer, \$299; Replacement cartridges, \$92







## Lexmark Prestige Pro805

Lexmark's been a mainstay of the large office, high workload printer for some time, so we were keen to see if it could translate that experience into the consumer and small business markets. The Prestige Pro805 sits near the top end of its all-in-one printer range.

As we've come to expect from Snow Leopard, installation was a breeze. Once we plugged the four cartridges in we were ready to print. The 4.3in display is complemented by an array of touch-sensitive buttons for setting up the wireless networking and other tasks.

Printing was quite quick with photos printed to glossy stock and documents on standard paper. Duplexing can be enabled at a per-job level through the printer driver or by pressing a button on the front of the unit.

Scanning was not quite as straightforward. Network scanning required installation of Lexmark's own software. This isn't a big deal but worth knowing. Scans from the printer can be sent to a file on the remote computer, the clipboard for pasting into documents – handy if you want to put a photo into a presentation – or to another application like Image Capture.

Paper handling was an area where we expected the Lexmark to excel. However, we found that it was easy to not push the tray all the way in, resulting in some paper jams. Also, there's only one paper feed so switching between photo or regular printing required switching the paper load.

Print quality was good with our test photos and Pages documents well rendered, although we did find that blacks weren't quite as black as we'd like.

Lexmark, [www.lexmark.com.au](http://www.lexmark.com.au)

### Pros Fast

**Cons** Single paper feed, network scanning software

**RRP** Printer, \$499; Replacement cartridges: \$110 for high yield or \$65 for normal



## MANAGED PRINT SERVICES

Recent research from several independent sources puts the cost of printing at between 1 percent and 3 percent of total revenue in most businesses. In boom times, that might seem like chicken feed but today that may represent the difference between survival and business death. The promise of the paperless office has been hanging around like a bad smell for at least 15 years but there is another way – managed print services, or MPS.

MPS works like this. Someone, usually a printer vendor (no surprise there) audits your office to see what printers you have, how they're used and what they cost to run. Costs include ink, paper, power and regular maintenance tasks. Then, they suggest ways to improve the situation. Usually, part of the recommendation involves standardising on a fleet of Brand X printers.

However, once you get past the sales bluster, it's worth noting that almost every MPS solution makes the same suggestions. To save you the time, effort and expense *Australian Macworld* is going to give you, at no extra charge over the cover price of this month's issue, the biggest money saving tips that come from MPS:

**Think before you print.** Don't print something unless you really need to. Today's computer screens are good enough for most tasks and, failing that, we're sure that a decent document reviewing app will appear for the iPad. Some printers will hold jobs for a period of time until the person who sent the job walks to the printer to manually release the job. Some companies reports many thousands of dollars in savings when they do this.

**Don't buy replacement consumables when you've already run out.** Always have a spare set of cartridges on hand for when the ink runs out. Otherwise, you'll end up buying the first ink you can get your hands on because you'll be in a hurry.

**Try to standardise on the consumables you use.** To do this you'll need to stick to one brand of printer. It's worth doing your homework as some printer cartridges, particularly in the inkjet market, can be used in several different models.

**Only print colour when you need it.** If you're only printing a document to proofread it, there's no need to print the images in colour. Most inkjets have either a larger black print cartridge or two black cartridges. This will save you the colour cartridges.

**Enable double-sided, or duplexed, printing by default.** Printer paper costs money. Most firms that enable duplexing by default reduce their paper costs by about 30 percent.



imagination meets  
innovation

DVD/CD PRINTING

WIRELESS PRINTING

AUTO 2-SIDED PRINTING



Epson Stylus® Photo TX710W

- Including
- Up to 40 ppm printing
  - 2.5" colour LCD-viewer
  - Up to 4800 dpi scanning
  - Memory card slots
  - PictBridge
  - Dual paper trays

Your imagination becomes reality with the Epson Stylus® Photo range

Make sure your images are captured as you imagine them by using Epson Stylus® Photo printers—86% of professional photographers do\*. All you need is in the range—4800 dpi scanner, Claria® high-definition photographic ink, UltraChrome® ink, individual ink cartridges, Epson PhotoEnhance, memory card slots, 7.8" touch sensor operation panel, 3.5" LCD viewer, 4" x 6" photos from 10 seconds and Italian design.



Epson Stylus®  
Photo TX810FW



Epson Stylus®  
Photo TX650



Epson Stylus®  
Photo T50



Epson Stylus®  
Photo 1410



Epson Stylus®  
Photo R1900



Epson Stylus®  
Photo R2880



## iScrapbook

Chronos, [www.chronosnet.com](http://www.chronosnet.com)

**Pros** Easy to use; flexible and powerful; friendly interface; iPhoto-compatible.

**Cons** Not enough template styles; family pack is a bit pricey.

**RRP** US\$50 (about \$57); upgrade, US\$30.  
Family pack US\$90; upgrade, US\$70



## Scrapbook heaven

**W**e've all heard that every picture tells a story, but as we amass digital photos from our cameras, phones and friends, sooner or later that narrative starts to get lost. One easy and fun solution is to use some of your favourite photos – the ones that evoke meaningful memories – as the basis for digital scrapbooking pages you can share.

iScrapbook 2.1.2 from Chronos is a digital scrapbooking program that brings high-quality design, easy layouts, and a seemingly unlimited supply of scrapbooking bits and inspiration.

You can showcase photos and artwork in a professional layout and add captions and stories to the pages. You can also include other small items (called embellishments) such as ticket stubs and sea shells, that add to the lifelike quality of your pages.

The first screen pops up three tasteful albums and one blank layout to begin. I would have preferred more template choices, however. The screen design is easy to understand and navigate, and the interface features a single window. Context-sensitive smart inspectors show only the tools needed for a selected operation.

The program represents a good balance of power and flexibility, which means it can serve the needs of both new and experienced digital scrapbookers.

New in version 2 is the iScrapKits browser, which manages your artwork, makes it searchable, and lets you access the online store where you can buy complete kits or specific graphical elements.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** I recommend iScrapbook 2.1.2 for its ease of use, flexible but powerful toolset, easy-to-customise templates, and add-on iScrapKits that let you expand your creative efforts at your own pace.

— KATHERINE MURRAY

## Boxing clever

iPod system a good performer.

**C**ompatible with a wide range of iPods and the iPhone, Cygnett's Maestro is a decent sounding (if slightly unattractive to some) iPod speaker dock. Black and functional, the unit is basically a box on legs and is in need of a design rethink. However, if you like things unfussy and minimal, then the Cygnett Maestro will work for you.

With few controls on the unit itself, the understated feel extends to a simple, effective remote control. This gives access to many of the iPod's controls, so you can browse tracks and select playlists without needing to get up or out of bed. Settings include menu, scroll up and down functions, volume control and the ability to repeat, shuffle and pause tracks, although the Maestro omits treble and bass options.

The unit includes a dedicated subwoofer and twin mid-range speakers that produce a solid, neutral sound, and we found that the Maestro performed well enough with everything from pumping retro techno to some delicate acoustic foppery.



While bass is particularly substantial, the mid-range does occasionally sound muddy and unfocused, with a little loss of detail. The Maestro proved pretty much distortion free when we pumped up the volume, and filled a smallish room well.

One major niggle during unboxing was the protective iPod dock cover, which requires removal before you can dock your device. The Quick Start Guide provided offers little in the way of visual clues as to what bit you're meant to take off. Removal is tricky—Cygnett suggests inserting a fingernail or blade, but do so with caution so not to damage the dock.

A good range of additional iPod connectors is included along with an auxiliary input. Like most docks, the unit charges your iPod or iPhone when in use, and the speaker will mute if and when a call comes in. Battery operation, as well as the mains supplied, gives some room to roam.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** Average looks aside, the Maestro produces decent audio reproduction from a speaker dock that won't offend the ears, or for that matter the eyes. Sweet sounding and solid with a neat and simple remote control, it complements a wealth of musical styles well, without really ever excelling with any.

— NICK SPENCE

## Cygnett Maestro

Cygnett, [www.cygnett.com](http://www.cygnett.com)

**Pros** Good sound; solid bass; suits most musical styles; automatically mutes during incoming calls.

**Cons** Limited functionality; no bass or treble controls; iPod protective dock cover is initially difficult and fiddly to remove.

**RRP** \$189.95





# Chairman of the boards

Fast, responsive, and loud keyboard returns.

If you're a veteran Mac user, you're familiar with Apple's legendary Extended keyboards. Fans of these keyboards kept them alive with adapters, prayer and spit because of their terrific feel and speed. Many feel that Apple's subsequent keyboards were mushy in comparison.

Fortunately, Matias's TactilePro keyboards offered a feel similar to the Apple Extended keyboards. Like these, Matias used individual Alps mechanical keyswitches.

These switches require a deeper press than today's slim keyboards but are responsive, fast, and, most noticeably, loud – as in early-90s loud. Watch a movie or TV show from this era where someone's typing on a computer keyboard and that's the sound you hear – clack, clack, clackity, clack.

Matias ran out of keyswitches a couple of years ago and so its TactilePro 2 keyboard became nearly impossible to find. Those who loved these keyboards babied them in the hope we could make them last long enough for a TactilePro 3 keyboard to arrive. That day is here (the first batch sold out but new ones should be available now).

Like its predecessors, this wired USB keyboard uses Alps mechanical switches, is extremely responsive, and is no less loud than the TactilePros that came before.

Moving beyond the sound and feel of this US\$150 keyboard, it offers some attractive features. First, it sports three USB 2.0 ports. They don't provide enough power to charge an iPod or iPhone, but they can sync them. It also has a couple of flip-out feet to raise the back of the keyboard. This used to be a common feature but it's becoming less so lately.

And going against Apple's trend in keyboard design, the TactilePro 3

has a keypad; 15 F-keys; a dedicated Eject key; Volume keys; and Help, Home, End, Page Up, Page Down, and Forward Delete keys. I understand that slim is in, but I routinely use the keypad and dislike pressing an Fn key to invoke a key combination when I can type a single key instead.

Finally, like the previous TactilePro keyboards, the TactilePro 3 has alternate characters printed on each keycap. For example, if you're looking for the <sup>™</sup> character, just look at the 2 key along the top of the QWERTY keyboard and you'll see that this key can produce 2, @, , and <sup>™</sup>, depending on the modifier key you press with it. You can locate these symbols with OS X's Keyboard Viewer and other third-party tools, but it's nice to have them laid out in front of you.

Today's keyboards are smaller, quiet, have short-throw keys (meaning they don't travel very far before they hit bottom), and many include macro and special-function keys (for media control, for example).

So if you're accustomed to today's keyboards, moving to a TactilePro 3 will take some getting used to. With its old-school action, design and clackety

## Matias TactilePro 3

Matias Corp, [matias.ca](http://matias.ca)

**Pros** Responsive; fast; full complement of traditional keys; 3 USB 2.0 ports; alternate characters printed on keycaps.

**Cons** Loud; no extra media or special-feature keys.

**RRP** US\$149.95 (about \$170) + shipping

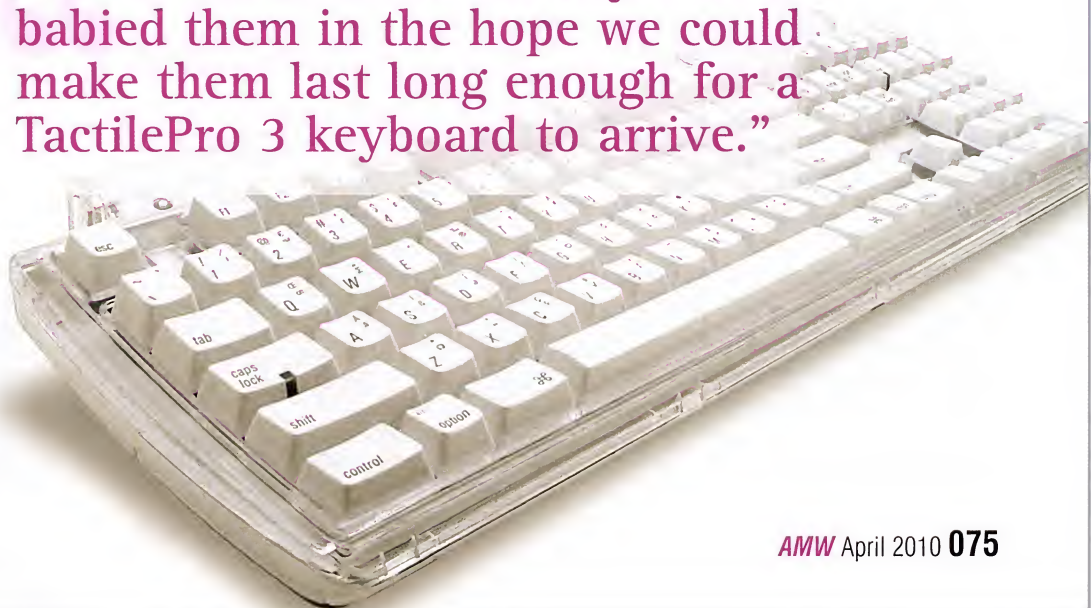


clack you may feel like you're typing on your parents' keyboard.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** If you don't see the charm and utility in a keyboard like this, stay away and leave them for people like me who do. ☺

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Those who loved these keyboards babied them in the hope we could make them last long enough for a TactilePro 3 keyboard to arrive.”





## HP ScanJet G3110

HP, [www.hp.com.au](http://www.hp.com.au)

**Pros** Built-in transparency adapter; very good overall image quality.

**Cons** Slow scan speeds

**RRP** \$229



## Slow but sure

**H**P's ScanJet G3110 is a flatbed scanner with a built-in transparency adapter suitable for small slide and film scanning projects. It features an optical resolution of 4800 dpi and 48-bit colours. And while its colour accuracy and ability to capture detail were impressive, its scan speeds were anything but.

The G3110 has a dark gray body and a shiny and curved, off-white lid. Four buttons built into the lid allow you to scan to file, PDF, email or to a printer (copy). The transparency adapter allows you to scan a single 35mm filmstrip or four individual slides.

HP's scanning software strategy can be a bit confusing. Standalone scanners continue to use HP Scan software under Snow Leopard, though the scanners in HP's multifunction printers rely on OS X's Image Capture app for Snow Leopard scans. HP's standalone scanners don't support Image Capture.

Instead of starting with a low-resolution preview scan that you apply crops and adjustment settings to before performing your final scan, HP scans the whole scanning bed. You then make your adjustments and save the file.

This workflow probably contributed to its lagging scanning times. For example, it took the ScanJet G3110 1 minute and 50 seconds to scan an 8 x 10in colour photo at 600 dpi and 48-bit colour. Competing scanners we've tested recently took about 40 seconds.

The good news is that the scans were of impressive quality. Colours were very close to the original and many of the details were captured, even those in shadow areas that many scanners struggle with.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** If you're in the market for an affordable photo scanner with the ability to capture accurate colour and detail, along with the occasional slide or film scan, the HP ScanJet G3110 is worth considering, especially if you're not in a hurry.

— JAMES GALBRAITH

## Dock 'n' roll

Dexim provides HD and remote control.

**O**ne of the easiest ways to get the music, videos and photos off your iPod or iPhone is to connect a dock to an existing speaker system. You don't really need a dock – you can just use a cable with a 3.5mm jack on one end and a pair of RCA audio plugs on the other – but a powered dock also lets you charge your iPod and, often, sync your iPod with iTunes.

I've had a Belkin dock hooked up to my Denon receiver for years, and while I have three ways of streaming media to my home theatre, it's easier just to plug in my iPod and let rip.

One of the things which makes a dock even better, though, is the ability to use a remote to control your iPod – which this Dexim provides.

It's a nice-looking black dock with a rubberised finish. On the back are a HDMI Mini port and a USB port for connecting to the power supply or a Mac. An HDMI Mini-to-component set of cables is included in the box. The HD cables allow you to view your iPod videos in 720i resolution.

Everything from the dock itself to the cables and connectors are very

good quality, except the remote. While it does the job it's supposed to, including access to the iPod menus, it feels light and cheap.

The Dock Station 'Works with iPhone', which means the dock pauses your music or movie and plays your ringtone through your speakers when a call comes through. But you have to restart your track when you've finished speaking. You also have to unlock the iPhone again if you want to access the Menu function.

A standard-definition version of the dock, with composite connections, is also available.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** This is one of the nicest docks I've hooked up to the home entertainment system. The audio and video quality is very good and it's great to have a remote control, but the quality of the remote really should be rethought.

— DAVE BULLARD

## Dexim AV Dock Station

iWorld Australia,  
[www.iworldaustralia.com.au](http://www.iworldaustralia.com.au)

**Pros** Good AV quality; remote control

**Cons** Cheap remote

**RRP** \$119.95





# Well-designed beast

Innovative hard drive, but poor speed.

**B**uffalo has given its MiniStation line of portable hard drives a makeover. Now sleek, sturdier than before and available in three colours – red, white and black – and two capacities – 320GB and 500GB – the MiniStation HD-PXU2 seems to be built for the rough and tumble lifestyle that demands both style and strength.

Unfortunately, the USB-only device pays a price for its rugged protective qualities and new facelift – it has unimpressive transfer speeds.

The curved corners and shiny red exterior of our test unit (it's also available black or white) allows it to cut a more fetching figure than the black brick shape of previous drives. The red exterior and more unconventional design are new to the Buffalo line of products.

The drive is a little bit bulky – it can fit into your pants pocket or backpack but your shirt would be in tatters if you tried to fit it into your breast pocket.

While the HD-PXU2 resembles omega's eGo, Buffalo's commitment to providing quality shock protection ensures that the drive is tough and portable. For our wear and tear tests, I tossed the hard drive around my cubicle, dropped it from heights of over 2m, and eventually threw it against a wall. It showed no signs of abuse aside from the odd scratch.

In addition to the superficial makeover and important protection upgrades, the MiniStation cleverly has an attached flex connect USB cable hidden on the side of the drive. The cord is a bit short, which is why Buffalo included a matching USB extender cable.

A dual-USB cord would have been even better. Some older laptops don't have the power needed to spin the MiniStation's mechanism and often require a splitter cable to draw extra power from two USB outlets.



## Buffalo MiniStation HD-PXU2

Buffalo, [www.buffalo-asia.com](http://www.buffalo-asia.com)

**Pros** Handy attached rubber USB cord; very shock resistant

**Cons** Mediocre speed

**RRP** 320GB, \$129; 500GB, \$179



There isn't any Mac software, though there is some, such as encryption and backup, included for Windows users. While not initially formatted for the Mac, the MiniStation can be configured for Time Machine backup.

In time trials, the MiniStation finished our lab tests behind competing drives, including the older MiniStation TurboUSB from Buffalo. Both omega's eGo Helium and the MiniStation TurboUSB finished our 1GB copy test in around 53 seconds – the same time as the new MiniStation.

The duplication tests were less impressive. The MiniStation finished

**The MiniStation cleverly has an attached flex connect USB cable hidden on the side.**

the test in 1 minute, 24 seconds, a full 5 seconds behind the eGo Helium and a whopping 9 seconds behind the old MiniStation.

The low-memory Photoshop tests were more encouraging. The MiniStation finished only a couple of seconds behind the old model, and beat the eGo Helium by 9 seconds.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** Buffalo has built a reputation on producing well-built, quality, and cutting-edge products. While searching for an edge in the portable hard drive market, the MiniStation gains an innovative design, but loses a bit in terms of performance. Users who care more about style than speed may still find the MiniStation compelling due to Buffalo's three-year warranty, the drive's impressive shock protective abilities, and the convenient, captive cable design. 

— CHRIS HOLT



# Logical choice

Digital audio workstation offers tremendous value and solid features.

Reviewing Logic Express 9 after the latest version of Logic Studio has been reviewed (AMW 11.2009) is an interesting proposition. After all, Logic Express is really a slightly stripped down version of Logic Studio's core digital audio workstation (DAW) application, Logic Pro 9. And because it is, any review of Logic Express 9 risks a "me too" rehash of points covered in the Logic Studio review.

Logic Express 9 offers some of Logic Studio's marquee features – the Flex Tool for easily warping audio phrases and individual notes; the Amp Designer and Pedalboard features, which simulate amps, speakers, mics and pedal effects; Varispeed, for slowing down an entire project without changing the project's pitch so that you can, for example, record a difficult solo; Drum Replacer for replacing real

drum tracks with triggered samples; and a new feature for adding guitar chord grids to a score.

These elements work just as they do in Logic Studio. They're musical and add tremendous value to an already capable DAW.

It must be said that there just isn't a better DAW deal than Logic Express 9. If you don't need features intended for the pros, the \$299 Logic Express 9 delivers huge bang for your buck.

It does so without feeling stripped down. Sure, Logic Express 9 is missing a lot of features included with Logic

Studio, but the elements that musicians are most likely to care about – Flex Time editing, amps and pedalboard effects, the features mentioned earlier, along with the already solid core of capabilities – are present.

Although I missed some of the instrument sounds included with Logic Studio (the Steinway piano, in particular), I never felt like Apple had removed a tool or tone that I absolutely needed. In the case of the Steinway, I was welcome to buy a third-party plug-in for the sound.

When you hit the limits of GarageBand, Apple would like you to believe that Logic Express 9 is the next logical step. And, for many people, it should be. The 166-page *Exploring Logic Express* book included with the program is a big help here.

But many of the program's most powerful features are buried in one of the application's many menus. And because they are, the unwary GarageBand user who has aspirations of greater things is likely to become frustrated. More hand-holding would be welcome.

Once GarageBand users discover some of these features they'll wonder how they made music without them. As much as I love GarageBand, it's toy-like in comparison.

**Australian Macworld's buying advice.** Logic Express 9 is tremendous value for musicians seeking a tool more powerful and musical than GarageBand. But with that power comes complexity. While Apple has done much to tame the beast that was Logic, some users will still find its advanced features confounding (and hard to locate). Work through the challenges, however, and you'll be rewarded.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

As much as I love GarageBand, it's toy-like in comparison."



## Logic Express 9

Apple, [www.apple.com.au](http://www.apple.com.au)

**Pros** Includes many key Logic Studio features; great value

**Cons** Complex application could offer more help to those moving from GarageBand

RRP \$299 (upgrade \$149)







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ONE MORE THING...

## Customer Service

I was at a friend's house the other day and she was telling me a story about how impressed she was with her new iPhone. I expected her to point to a software feature, like she loved the apps, or the fact that it had replaced her iPod, but interestingly her experience had nothing to do with the hardware or the software.

Her son, she told me, was using her iPhone (as my kids so often do!) and downloaded a free game from the app store. This game also included the ability to add extra levels via the in-app purchasing mechanism (something that Apple only recently allowed developers to include in free games) and he proceeded to add an extra paid level to the game.

Twenty four hours later she got notification of the purchase in the form of an emailed receipt from the iTunes store, and asked her son about it. He had no recollection of buying anything and pleaded ignorance.

She said she got angry for a couple of minutes and then noticed the small 'Report a Problem' link on the bottom of the invoice. She reported the problem to Apple and in less than 12 hours had a response from an Apple customer representative who not only apologised, but credited the money back to her account. No questions asked.

That's what my friend remembered about her iPhone, and I'm sure I wasn't the only one of our peer group to get the story.

These days, products don't exist in isolation. If your product doesn't come with great customer support you'll give customers an easy option to go elsewhere.

I like to contrast the experience my friend had with an experience

I had with servicing a Motorola Bluetooth headset that broke on me. First off, it took me about 10 minutes just to find the support website that listed service numbers. After I sat on hold for over 20 minutes I got through to a polite, but terribly unhelpful operator.

She told me to take the headset to a service centre. I asked whether



**The Apple Stores, as a contrast, are another good example of the right way to treat customers."**

I could just send it in (we were only talking about a 100g headset) but she politely declined and told me all service work was outsourced and to speak to the outsourced business directly.

Outsourcing is OK for some businesses, but for a business like Motorola, which is struggling to maintain a consumer brand, outsourcing can be a catastrophic failure. How can they control the

quality of the user experience when someone external manages it? They can't, and it shows.


The Apple Stores, as a contrast, are another good example of the right way to treat customers. Customers, both actual and potential, visit the Apple Stores to browse and buy. But there's never any pressure to do either. Staff are not rewarded on quotas or targets.

The Genius bar, a place to take your iPhone, iPod or Mac if it's broken or you need some help, is free to visit, and Apple actively encourages you to do so. It's another intangible benefit of buying Apple, and one that competitors struggle to emulate.

Have you ever been to a Telstra store? The decor looks good, but the staff are generally glum and, quite frankly, hopelessly unhelpful in my experience. I'm not surprised. When was the last time you met someone passionate about Telstra?

I've heard of people choosing an iPhone over the competition because they know that, if there's a problem with it, Apple will fix it on the spot, at the Genius Bar, no questions asked.

So, in the end, it's simple. If you want to compete with businesses like Apple (and there are many others that provide equally good customer service) you've got to offer the complete solution. From quality products that work well, to quality support when things go wrong. It's not enough just to worry about one part of the equation.

Consumers are smart, and they talk. Even if you've got the biggest and brightest signs, spend the most on TV commercials and have an army of sales staff, a single failure at the customer service level can be costly indeed. 



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